

APRIL 1961 • 40 CENTS

# Consumer BULLETIN

The original consumer testing magazine



## BUILT-IN OVENS AND COOKING TOPS

### FOUR 1961 COMPACT CARS

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Lark 6

**Critics of food adulteration  
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**New kind of electric toaster**

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**Appliance care and repair**

## ZIGZAG SEWING MACHINES

PUBLISHED SINCE 1928

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# Zigzag Sewing Machines

A study of machines that stitch from side to side as well as in a straight line

A ZIGZAG MACHINE offers all that a straight-sewing machine does, with some extras that do not depend on attachments. The simplest kind of a zigzag machine, which is perhaps best characterized as a "limited" zigzag sewing machine, probably provides all the operations of the zigzag kind that the average home sewer will likely use.

Decorative stitching can also be done by these limited zigzag machines, but the stitching that tempts the homemaker to do "creative sewing" is the kind that can best be done by the automatic, full-zigzag sewing machines. These machines make the detailed, embroidery-type stitches that, though not necessary, add personal touches to clothing and make handsome table linens, cur-

tains, and drapes. Such sewing calls for a zigzag sewing machine capable of doing work of this kind; moreover, it requires an operator who is willing to devote time to her sewing, to follow instructions, and to learn to use the machine.

## Guarantees

Because zigzag sewing machines are fairly delicate mechanisms, and may go out of adjustment, it is especially important that the prospective buyer check availability of repair service and parts. A good machine that does not sell in sufficient number for dealers to stock parts may be an "orphan."

(Continued on page 11)

## What zigzag sewing machines do

The principal difference between a *zigzag sewing machine* and a *straight-stitch sewing machine* is that the needle of the zigzag machine can move from side to side at right angles to the direction of the motion of the cloth. This makes a zigzag pattern, wider or narrower, along the center line of needle travel (left):

### STEP I



When the stitch-length control is adjusted so the machine sews many stitches per inch, the zigzag pattern stitch is called a "satin stitch" (right). A good satin stitch depends on the evenness with which the machine feeds the cloth and correct adjustment of thread tensions as well as the uniformity of the motion of the needle from left to right.

Some zigzag machines also have a mechanism to permit shifting the needle to the left or right, or both, of the center or normal position on the machine. This makes it possible to make patterns like this:

### STEP II



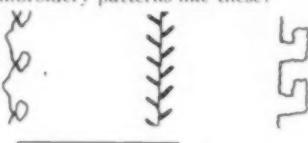
An *automatic zigzag machine* uses templates (cams or bars) to control zigzag motions automatically. Sometimes the templates must be inserted into the machine, sometimes they are built in. A great variety of patterns can be made by some of the automatic machines:



As can be seen on examination, all of the patterns shown so far are made by controlling the action of the needle and the *forward feed* of the machine.

On some automatic zigzag machines, however, the direction of the feed can be *reversed* automatically also. This makes possible embroidery patterns like these:

### STEP III



There are other refinements. Some machines have a variable or adjustable drive for the cams controlling the needle and feed. This drive rotates the cam slower or faster with reference to the speed of the machine—and thus changes the length of the pattern without changing its character.

### STEP IV



Almost all zigzag machines are equipped to accommodate twin needles (two needles mounted on a single shank). On some machines, these needles are side by side as you look at the machine from the front, making a stitch like that shown at the left. On others, one needle is behind the other, making possible the kind of pattern shown at the right.



Twin needles give variations to zigzag patterns. Straight stitching is sometimes done with twin needles also, as for making pin tucks (with needles mounted side by side).

## *The Consumers' Observation Post*

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THE QUEST FOR NEW ANTI-DECAY AGENTS is a topic of great interest to the Navy, which finds that the average 18-year-old inductee has no less than 7-1/2 decayed teeth needing attention and another 6 already filled. The National Institute of Dental Research is looking into techniques for building decay resistance into the teeth and, at present, finds one of the most promising substances to be calcium phosphate, the chief mineral constituent of bones, as a food additive in bread. The researchers are reported to believe that adding this chemical to bread may have basic advantages over fluoridation of water. Another research project is to isolate the bacteria that cause gum decay, suspected to be a bacterial infection of the "strep" variety.

\* \* \*

THE NEW SPORT OF TRAMPOLINING that is sweeping the country involves some definite hazards. Dr. John S. DeTar of Milan, Michigan, points out that lack of training in use and lack of supervision are the greatest dangers. Dr. DeTar, who is a devotee of the Trampoline as a form of exercise, uses a belt suspended from the ceiling to work out every new maneuver until he has achieved a safety factor. The Trampoline was invented in the early 1930's and was a gymnastic device until the last few years, when outdoor centers were built in the West. Basically, it is a bed of fabric drawn taut and fastened to springs. In the gymnastic version, the springs are mounted on a frame. Outdoor Trampolines are built flush with the ground over a four-foot-deep pit. The American Medical Association reports that back injuries may be incurred by those who jump improperly. In some sections, public demand for regulatory measures has been stimulated by serious accidents. Operators of "bouncelands" are warned of the need for careful and continuous supervision and training of instructors.

\* \* \*

SWIMMING POOLS have been increasingly popular this past year, but those who have had them in operation for a year or two are beginning to discover that they involve a considerable number of headaches. The upkeep and insurance come high, often running around \$40 a month. Cleaning the pool every week is hard work. Furthermore, most people find that they must entertain a half dozen or more friends and neighbors every pleasant week end, not only with pool facilities, towels, and a place to dress, but food as well. The cost of insurance rises because of the danger to children even when close supervision is exercised. Furthermore, after a swimming pool is once put in, it is a little hard for those who change their minds about its desirability to get rid of it.

\* \* \*

BUILDING CODES are funny things. It would appear that they are not always designed to protect or aid consumers, but to favor some local or regional interest. The National Fire Protection Association reports, for example, that a couple who owned a home in Leawood, Kansas, was fined \$50 for putting a fire retardant roof covering on their home instead of using wooden shingles. The building ordinance required the roofs to be covered with wood, tile, slate, or asbestos shingles, and the provision ruled out asphalt shingles, which were installed on the home of the couple who were fined.

\* \* \*

ANTACID TABLETS CONTAINING MAGNESIUM TRISILICATE should be used with caution. Apparently they are not completely harmless as was supposed, for two New York physicians report a new kind of kidney stone, composed of silicon dioxide, that apparently was caused by continued large doses of a common antacid preparation. The patient had been in the habit of taking between 30 and 35 tablets daily for two or three years.

BACKACHE SUFFERERS are often advised to put boards under the mattress. Dr. T. T. Stamm of Guy's Hospital, London, England, notes that the purpose of the boards is to prevent the mattress from sagging. He has, however, found a more comfortable solution, which is to fold two blankets to make a pack three feet long and 15 inches wide. This pack is placed crosswise under the mattress one third of the way down the bed to give support to the lumbar region when the person is lying either on his side or on his back. He points out that this is the equivalent of putting a cushion in the small of the back when one is sitting in an automobile seat.

\* \* \*

CONSUMERS ARE BY-PASSING low-priced merchandise in favor of quality goods. That is reported by The New York Times on the basis of a check made of various discount stores and variety chains. Consumers are buying high-priced merchandise in smaller quantities on the theory apparently that one quality product at a higher price may last longer than two at a lower price. We hope that means more consultation of CR's findings before a purchase is made, too.

\* \* \*

ASPARAGUS PACKAGED IN PLASTIC FILM BAGS or sheets will reach the purchaser in a crisp and tender condition, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Government researchers, however, report that film packages sometimes develop an off-flavor and off-odor when they are not kept well refrigerated. The inedible white butts were cut from the film-packaged asparagus in an effort to reduce transportation costs. It was found that the all-green stalks developed decay much faster than the stalks with the white butt ends; however, when the temperature was held at 40 degrees, decay was not a problem.

\* \* \*

HEART FAILURE is discussed in a new leaflet put out by the American Heart Association, which is somewhat reassuring to those who are subject to this ailment. It points out that medical science has found ways to strengthen the heart and to control heart failure which occurs when the heart's ability to circulate blood normally through the body has been weakened by a narrowing of the arteries that nourish the heart (atherosclerosis), by a severe heart attack, severe high blood pressure, rheumatic fever, or heart defects present at birth. Drugs and surgery are effective in treating some heart ailments. At the first signs of difficulty in breathing and swelling (edema), a doctor should be consulted. Shortness of breath, particularly at night, is one of the symptoms. Patients who follow their doctor's advice faithfully find that heart failure can often be controlled and with good care they can lead a full life, although they may have to adjust to a slower pace of living and take more rest.

\* \* \*

DRUMS THAT DON'T MAKE NOISE—or at least not much noise—are now available. For those student drummers who are considered a neighborhood nuisance when they practice at home, a quiet drumhead has been developed using Mylar polyester film that provides a crisp striking surface, but only a whisper of a sound. Practice drum sets are available from Fips Drum Co. of Westbury, Long Island, N. Y., and Remo, Inc. of North Hollywood, Calif. Now all the family has to do is to induce the drummer in their household to use the silent type at home.

\* \* \*

REVERSIBLE RAINCOATS FOR WOMEN are quite popular. Whether they can be dry cleaned satisfactorily is another matter. The National Institute of Drycleaning reports that with printed fabrics the design may be removed by the dry cleaning fluid, if it has been applied by a technique called lacquer pigment printing.

*(The continuation of this section is on page 37)*

# Consumer Bulletin

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Listings usually are arranged in alphabetical order by brand name (not in order of merit) under each quality or performance rating. A numeral 1, 2, or 3 at the end of a listing indicates relative price, 1 being low, 3 high. Where the 1, 2, 3 price ratings are given, brands in the 1, or least expensive group, are listed alphabetically, followed by brands in price group 2, also in alphabetical order, etc. A quality judgment is wholly independent of price.

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# FOUR 1961 COMPACT CARS

## Comet



A well-built car which, like the *Falcon*, has proven to be very popular, and should be even more so this year, with the availability of an optional more powerful (101-horsepower) engine, with those who are willing to sacrifice some economy for faster acceleration. First year's depreciation, about \$500 (21 percent, very low).

ESSENTIALLY the same as last year's model, with some minor improvements. Headroom was adequate in the front but somewhat skimped in the rear for tall persons, and more leg room in the rear would have been desirable. Actually this car has the same body dimensions as the *Falcon*, except for the trunk space, which is larger by about 5 cubic feet. High trunk sill made for somewhat difficult loading and unloading. The *Comet* has a 4½ inch longer wheelbase, and is

### Comet specifications

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Taxable horsepower                          | 99.4                        |
| Taxable weight, pounds                      | 2410                        |
| <b>Engine</b>                               |                             |
| Type  | 6-cylinder, overhead valves |
| Piston displacement, cubic inches           | 144*                        |
| Rated maximum horsepower at stated rpm.     | 85 at 4200*                 |
| Compression ratio                           | 8.7 to 1                    |
| Cooling system capacity with heater, quarts | 9.3                         |
| <b>Chassis and body</b>                     |                             |
| Type  | Unit                        |
| Wheelbase, inches                           | 114                         |
| Over-all length, inches                     | 195                         |
| Width, inches                               | 70.5                        |
| Height, inches                              | 54.5                        |
| Tires                                       | 6.00 x 13                   |
| Rear axle ratio                             | 3.50 to 1*                  |
| Brake area, square inches                   | 114                         |
| Turning diameter, feet                      | 40                          |
| Minimum road clearance, inches              | 5.9                         |
| Trunk space, cubic feet                     | 28.5                        |
| <b>Other details</b>                        |                             |
| Battery                                     | 12-volt 40-amp.-hr.         |
| Gasoline tank capacity, gallons             | 14                          |
| Type of gasoline recommended                | Regular                     |
| Curb weight, pounds                         | 2575                        |

\* Optional engine, 170 cubic inch displacement, 101 horsepower at 4400 rpm. Standard axle ratio with this engine, 3.20 to 1 (3.50 to 1, optional).

about 14 inches longer overall than the *Falcon*. The heater and defroster were satisfactory. The car had a step-down floor design but was relatively easy to enter and leave. Seats were very comfortable. Major controls on the panel were well lighted and identified. Front fenders were bolted on, an arrangement which should make for less costly repair.

Of possible interest to some is the availability of a more powerful engine (\$45.10 extra) which gives better acceleration with about 10 percent loss in miles per gallon.

### Disadvantages

Indicator lights instead of the more desirable gauges were used for oil pressure and generator. A larger inside rear-view mirror would be desirable. Only a small part of the taillight can be seen from the side. Better visibility of taillights from the side would make for greater safety in use of the car.

### Prices

The model tested by Consumers' Research was a *Comet* 2-door sedan with deluxe trim, automatic transmission, and the optional 101-horsepower engine.

"Posted price," \$2495.05, itemized as follows: Manufacturer's suggested selling price, \$1998 (4-door sedan is \$2053); heater and defroster, \$74.30; radio, \$58.80; fashion group trim, \$86.90; optional 101-horsepower engine, \$45.10; automatic transmission, \$171.70; freight, \$60.25.

### Riding and handling qualities

The riding quality of the *Comet* was good on roads in good condition at speeds up to about 60 miles per hour; it was good also on winding, hilly country highways. On rough roads in bad condition, the ride was somewhat bumpy, but there was no tendency to go out of control at normal speeds. The car handled well on hard-packed snow and was easy to handle and park. The *Comet* cornered well with only slight leaning of the body on turns.

### Instrument errors

Speedometer was about 5 percent fast at 50 miles per hour. Odometer was approximately 3 percent fast.

### Brakes

Service brakes were satisfactory. The parking brake, located at the left of the steering column, was set by a hand-operated ratchet and was of a

type that is satisfactory for use in an emergency should service brakes fail.

#### Road tests of accelerating ability

For convenient comparison, acceleration for the *Comet* and the *Falcon* are shown in the following table.

|                 | Comet<br>(101-hp. engine,<br>automatic trans.,<br>3.2 axle ratio) | Falcon<br>(85-hp. engine,<br>manual trans.,<br>3.1 axle ratio) |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 0 to 60 m.p.h.  | 18.5 sec.   | 25.0 sec. (through gears)                                      |
| 20 to 50 m.p.h. | 10.5 sec.   | 15.0 sec. (in high gear)                                       |
| 40 to 60 m.p.h. | 11.0 sec.   | 17.5 sec. (in high gear)                                       |

The 101-horsepower *Comet* gave much better acceleration than the *Falcon* (with, of course, fewer miles per gallon of gasoline). (The *Falcon* tested by Consumers' Research had an 85-horsepower engine.) The *Comet* with automatic transmission gave ample acceleration for passing.

#### Gasoline mileage under test conditions

At a constant speed of 50 miles per hour, the *Comet* gave 21.5 miles per gallon, compared to 29 miles per gallon for the *Falcon*.



## Pontiac Tempest

The *Tempest* is judged a good car with many desirable features. In CR's opinion, the 4-cylinder model with manual transmission could be and very likely will be substantially improved by better carburetion, to increase gasoline mileage; changes could also be made to advantage in the front-end suspension or weight distribution to give a better ride on rough roads.

THE *Tempest*, with its front-mounted 4-cylinder engine and a "transaxle" (a transmission-differential combination mounted at the rear), with independent suspension on all four wheels, is the most unusual of the 1961 models from an engineering standpoint. (Four-cylinder automobile engines have not been used by General Motors since 1928.) The engine is connected to the transaxle by a curved flexible torsion-transmitting shaft about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter, running in a tubular housing. Early difficulties in manufacture and inspection of this drive shaft, which necessitated the calling in of about 1000 of the early models for replacement of this shaft, appear to have been corrected. (The principle is not new; it has long been used in racing cars and in certain industrial machinery.)

The *Tempest* uses the same body shell as General Motors' *Buick Special* and *Oldsmobile F-85*, but was found not to be as difficult to enter and leave, on account of its larger size 15-inch tires which gave a higher roof line. Leg room was adequate and headroom was adequate in the front but not in the rear. The front seat was very comfortable, and the seats were covered with a washable material which appeared to be of durable character. With the transmission in the rear, the front floor hump is small, but the drive shaft hump under the rear seat reduces the seating comfort of the passenger riding in the middle. This limits the rear seat to two passengers for riding in comfort. The rear-seat area was greatly reduced by the rounding of the corners of the cushions, to permit easier entry. This modification did not appear to affect adversely the comfort of rear-seat passengers.

Most of the compacts use 13-inch wheels but the *Tempest*, like the *Rambler* and *Lark*, uses 15-inch wheels; the larger diameter should have a very favorable effect on tire life. The automatic transmission on the *Tempest* uses a new principle in which in high range the drive is "split" so that about 40 percent of the torque is transmitted directly (mechanically) and about 60 percent

hydraulically, through the torque converter. This system improves engine braking because of the more direct connection of the engine with the rear wheels. The transmission is also more efficient; its design reduces power losses due to slippage.

The 3-speed heater with adjustable thermostat performed well in below-zero weather. The spare tire was located horizontally at the right side of the trunk. Access to the trunk, over a moderately low sill, was relatively easy.

### Disadvantages

Signal lights instead of the more desirable meters were used for generator, oil pressure, and temperature. A larger rear-view mirror would be desirable. The design of the taillights was poor; these lights could not be seen by a driver approaching from the side. The automatic transmission lacked a "park" position; a park position is desirable, for safety in some situations.

### Prices

The cars tested by Consumers' Research were the *Tempest* 4-cylinder 4-door sedan with manual transmission, and a similar car with automatic transmission (\$172.80 extra).

"Posted price," \$2354.95, itemized as follows: Manufacturer's suggested list price, \$2167 (*V-8* model is \$216 extra); heater-defroster, \$74.25; heavy-duty air cleaner, \$4.84; oil filter, \$5.38; back-up lights, \$12.91; windshield and rear window mouldings, \$14.52; anti-freeze, \$3.30; transportation charge, \$72.75.

### Riding and handling qualities

The 4-cylinder *Tempest* handled, parked, and cornered well. The ride was very good at speeds up to 55 miles per hour on winding country highways in good condition. However, on washboard or pothole-pitted roads, the ride was somewhat hard, attributed to the fact that the car was nose heavy. (The *V-8* model, whose aluminum engine is about 150 pounds lighter than the 4-cylinder cast-iron engine, gave a much better ride over such roads.) There was also a noticeable difference in the riding quality on rough roads of the 4-cylinder model with standard transmission and the 4-cylinder model with automatic transmission; the latter gave a better ride. Why the automatic transmission model should give better riding qualities is not entirely clear, but the difference may have been due, at least in part, to a difference in the ratio of sprung to unsprung weight of the cars with the different transmissions. The car performed well in 6 to 8 inches of snow and on hard-packed snow.

### Instrument errors

Speedometer was about 5 percent fast at 50 miles per hour. Odometer was about 3½ percent fast.

### Brakes

Service brake action was very good, but there was considerable nose dive on emergency stops. The parking brake was of the "step-on" type, released by a pull-up hand-operated control under the instrument panel. This brake was not considered a desirable type for use as an emergency brake.

### Road tests of accelerating ability

Acceleration times were:

|                 | Manual transmission<br>4-cylinder | Automatic transmission<br>4-cylinder | V-8      |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 0 to 60 m.p.h.  | 18.5 sec. (through gears)         | 17.5 sec.                            | N.A.     |
| 20 to 50 m.p.h. | 9.5 sec. (in third gear)          | 9.0 sec.                             | 8.0 sec. |
| 40 to 60 m.p.h. | 9.5 sec. (in third gear)          | 8.5 sec.                             | N.A.     |

The differences in performance between the car with the manual transmission and the car with automatic transmission were small. Both were faster in acceleration than the *Corvair* and *Falcon*, in all ranges. Unfortunately, because of adverse weather conditions at the time of the test, acceleration measurements could be made only on the *Tempest* *V-8*, in the 20 to 50 miles per hour range.

### Gasoline mileage under test conditions

At a constant speed of 50 miles per hour, the 4-cylinder *Tempest* with manual transmission gave 26 miles per gallon; the 4-cylinder *Tempest* with automatic transmission, 25 miles per gallon. (Tests on gasoline mileage were not made on the *V-8* model.) In city driving, the 4-cylinder *Tempest* with manual transmission gave miles-per-gallon figures ranging from 19 to 22.

### Pontiac *Tempest* specifications

|   | 4                          | V-8                        |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Taxable horsepower                          | 96.4                       | 39.2                       |
| Taxable weight, pounds                      | 2800                       | 2650                       |
| <b>Engine</b>                               |                            |                            |
| Type  | 4-cylinder, valve-in-head  | V-8, valve-in-head         |
| Piston displacement, cubic inches           | 194.5                      | 215                        |
| Rated maximum horsepower at stated rpm.     | 110 at 3800                | 155 at 4600                |
| Compression ratio                           | 8.6 to 1                   | 8.8 to 1                   |
| Cooling system capacity with heater, quarts | 12.6                       | 12.6                       |
| <b>Chassis and body</b>                     |                            |                            |
| Type  | Unit                       | Unit                       |
| Wheelbase, inches                           | 112                        | 112                        |
| Over-all length, inches                     | 189                        | 189                        |
| Width, inches                               | 72                         | 72                         |
| Height, inches                              | 53.5                       | 53.5                       |
| Tires                                       | 6.00 x 15                  | 6.00 x 15                  |
| Rear axle ratio                             | 3.55 to 1                  | 3.55 to 1                  |
| Brake area, square inches                   | (3.08 to 1, automatic) 109 | (3.08 to 1, automatic) 109 |
| Turning diameter, feet                      | 41                         | 41                         |
| Minimum road clearance, inches              | 6.0                        | 6.0                        |
| Trunk space, cubic feet                     | 27.5                       | 27.5                       |
| <b>Other details</b>                        |                            |                            |
| Battery                                     | 12-volt 42-amp.-hr.        | 12-volt 42-amp.-hr.        |
| Gasoline tank capacity, gallons             | 15.5                       | 15.5                       |
| Type of gasoline required                   | Regular                    | Regular                    |
| Curb weight, pounds                         | 2910                       | N.A.                       |

N.A.—not available.

## Rambler Classic 6



The Rambler is a good car of proven design whose manufacturer has not been one to make changes just for the sake of change, and the car has a record of satisfactory service. First year's depreciation on the 6, about \$700 (28 percent).

THE most important change on this year's *Rambler* is the new aluminum-block 6-cylinder engine, which is standard equipment on the *Custom* model, but is \$30 extra on other models. This engine weighs about 80 pounds less than last year's. It has cast-iron cylinder liners and hydraulic valve lifters.

A very good safety feature for families with children is a vacuum-powered locking system for all four doors, controlled by the driver by a switch on the instrument panel and available at an extra cost of \$29.85. Instrument panel lighting was better than average. Leg room and headroom in the front were satisfactory, but more leg room in the rear of the sedan would be desirable. The sedan model was easy to enter in the front but the reduced door width in the rear made the car difficult to enter for tall or large people. The car had bolted-on front fenders, a feature which should lessen the cost of repair. The heater and defroster were very effective. The car has a ceramic-coated muffler, which should have a relatively long life.

### Disadvantages

Indicating lights instead of the more desirable gauges were used for generator and oil pressure. Glove compartment was rather small.

### Prices

The models tested by Consumers' Research were a *Rambler Classic 6* 4-door *Super Sedan* and a *Rambler Classic 6* 4-door *Custom Station Wagon*. Both had a "Power Pack" consisting of a twin-throat (instead of single-throat) carburetor which raised the rated horsepower from 127 to 138.

"Posted price" of the 4-door sedan, \$2834.35, itemized

### Rambler specifications

|   | 6                           | V-8                    |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Taxable horsepower                          | 93.44                       | 39.2                   |
| Taxable weight, pounds                      | 2905                        | 3235                   |
| <b>Engine</b>                               |                             |                        |
| Type  | 6-cylinder, overhead valves | V-8, overhead valves   |
| Piston displacement, cubic inches           | 195.6                       | 250                    |
| Rated maximum horsepower at stated rpm.     | 127 at 4200*                | 200 at 4900            |
| Compression ratio                           | 8.7 to 1                    | 8.7 to 1               |
| Cooling system capacity with heater, quarts | 10.5                        | 20.0                   |
| <b>Chassis and body</b>                     |                             |                        |
| Type  | Unit                        | Unit                   |
| Wheelbase, inches                           | 108                         | 108                    |
| Overall length, inches                      | 190                         | 190                    |
| Width, inches                               | 72.5                        | 72.5                   |
| Height, inches                              | 57.5                        | 57.0                   |
| Tires                                       | 6.50 x 15                   | 7.50 x 14              |
| Rear axle ratio                             | 3.78 to 1                   | 4.10 to 1              |
|   | (3.31 to 1, automatic)      | (3.15 to 1, automatic) |
| Brake area, square inches                   | 154                         | 167                    |
| Turning diameter, feet                      | 37.5                        | 37.5                   |
| Minimum road clearance, inches              | 5.6                         | 5.4                    |
| Trunk space, cubic feet                     | 27.9                        | 27.9                   |
| <b>Other details</b>                        |                             |                        |
| Battery                                     | 12-volt 45-amp.-hr.         | 12-volt 50-amp.-hr.    |
| Gasoline tank capacity, gallons             | 20                          | 20                     |
| Type of gasoline required                   | Regular                     | Regular                |
| Curb weight, pounds                         | 3085                        | 3405                   |

\* Cars tested had "Power Pack," raising rated horsepower to 138 at 4500 rpm.

as follows: Manufacturer's suggested list price, \$2268; automatic transmission, \$199.50; heater and defroster, \$76; "Power Pack," \$12; power steering, \$74; power brakes, \$39.95; back-up lights, \$9.95; individual front seats, \$20; reclining seats, \$25.50; self-adjusting brakes, \$7.45; light package, \$9.95; oil filter, \$9.75; undercoating, \$14.95; anti-freeze, \$4; freight, \$80.75.

"Posted price" of the 4-door station wagon, \$3407.85, itemized as follows: Manufacturer's suggested selling price, \$2717; all the accessories listed above for the 4-door sedan, \$461.60; radio and antenna, \$69.95; white sidewall tires, 6.50 x 15, \$31.55; sun visor and padded dash, \$21.50; freight, \$82.25.

### Riding and handling qualities

At speeds up to 60 miles per hour the riding quality was good (comparable with that of the full-sized cars), improved over last year by the use of redesigned front shock absorbers, which had less tendency to let the car "bottom" on rough roads. The car cornered well with no objectionable leaning on turns. Seats were comfortable.

### Instrument errors

Speedometer was about 5 percent fast at 50 miles per hour. Odometer was about 3 percent fast.

### Brakes

The power brakes (self-adjusting) were satisfactory. Engine braking with transmission in "L" position was ample. Parking brake was of the step-on type, with a pull-up manual release to the left of the steering column. (Not considered a desirable type for use in an emergency.)

## Road tests of accelerating ability

Acceleration times were:

|                 | Rambler Classic 6    |           |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 4-door sedan    | 4-door station wagon |           |
| 0 to 60 m.p.h.  | 19.0 sec.            | 19.5 sec. |
| 20 to 50 m.p.h. | 10.0 sec.            | 10.5 sec. |
| 40 to 60 m.p.h. | 9.5 sec.             | 9.5 sec.  |

Not as fast in acceleration as the *Buick Special* and *Oldsmobile F-85*, but judged adequate for the average driver.

## Gasoline mileage under test conditions

At a constant speed of 50 miles per hour, the sedan gave 20 miles per gallon and the station wagon 19.5 miles per gallon (not as good as last year's *Rambler 6*, which gave 24.5 miles per gallon, and fewer miles per gallon than most of the other compacts of comparable horsepower).

## Studebaker Lark 6



The Lark is a well-built small car of conservative design, with good acceleration and gasoline mileage. Tall people would find the lack of headroom and leg room a disadvantage. Depreciation the first year, about \$775 (32 percent) —high compared to *Rambler 6* at \$700 and 28 percent.

THIS YEAR the *Lark* has a new engine called the "Skybolt 6," rated at 112 horsepower (last year's was 90 horsepower). This new engine gave the car decidedly better accelerating ability. Headroom in the front was barely adequate; in the rear it was not adequate for tall persons. More leg room would be desirable in the front. Car was relatively easy to enter at the front, somewhat more difficult at the rear. Floors were flat (no step-down) but transmission hump was rather large, making the car adequate for five, rather than six, passengers.

## Studebaker Lark 6 specifications

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Taxable horsepower                          | 91.6                        |
| Taxable weight, pounds                      | 2065                        |
| <b>Engine</b>                               |                             |
| Type  | 6-cylinder, overhead valves |
| Piston displacement, cubic inches           | 169.4                       |
| Rated maximum horsepower at stated rpm.     | 112 at 4500                 |
| Compression ratio                           | 8.5 to 1                    |
| Cooling system capacity with heater, quarts | 12                          |
| <b>Chassis and body</b>                     |                             |
| Type  | Box section, ladder type    |
| Wheelbase, inches                           | 108.5                       |
| Overall length, inches                      | 175                         |
| Width, inches                               | 71.5                        |
| Height, inches                              | 56.5                        |
| Tires                                       | 6.00 x 15                   |
| Rear axle ratio                             | 3.73 to 1                   |
| Brake area, square inches                   | 146                         |
| Turning diameter, feet                      | 37.5                        |
| Minimum road clearance, inches              | 6.1                         |
| Trunk space, cubic feet                     | 15.8                        |
| <b>Other details</b>                        |                             |
| Battery                                     | 12-volt 50-amp.-hr.         |
| Gasoline tank capacity, gallons             | 18                          |
| Type of gasoline required                   | Regular                     |
| Curb weight, pounds                         | 2875                        |

Fender panels were bolted on, a type of construction which should greatly reduce the cost of fender repairs. *Deluxe* models have single headlamps; *Regal* models have dual headlamps.

## Disadvantages

Signal lights are used instead of the more desirable meters for generator and oil pressure. Trunk sill was too high for convenient loading and unloading. Additional headroom in the front and rear is very badly needed. Defroster action was somewhat slow. Two-spoke steering wheel on car tested is oval in shape, a feature judged to be of dubious value.

## Prices

The car tested by Consumers' Research was a *Lark Deluxe* 6 4-door sedan, with "Regal" kit.

"Posted price," \$2487.03, itemized as follows: Manufacturer's suggested selling price, \$2005; "Regal" kit, \$150; heater and defroster, \$71; *Flight-O-Matic* transmission, \$164.85; undercoating, \$23.50; distribution and freight, \$72.68.

## Riding and handling qualities

Riding quality on good roads, at speeds up to 55 miles per hour, was very good, but on poor roads the ride was somewhat stiff and bumpy. The *Lark* cornered well, and leaning of the body on turns was not objectionable. Seats were comfortable; the *Lark* is an easy car to drive, steer, handle, and park.

## Instrument errors

Speedometer was 6 to 7 percent fast at 50 miles per hour (an excessive error). Odometer was about 3 percent fast.

(Concluded on page 31)

## Zigzag sewing machines

(The beginning of this article is on page 2)

—not repairable when trouble develops. The guarantee is also important.

As noted in the article on straight-stitch sewing machines in the March 1961 CONSUMER BULLETIN, some guarantees for sewing machines are sales gimmicks, rather than legitimate guarantees to protect the buyer against inferior or defective parts or concealed damage. Guarantees differ considerably both as to the length of time after purchase they are in effect and parts covered.

In making any purchase, be sure that the guarantee is in writing or printed; verbal agreements are unsatisfactory, and often useless. This Sears guarantee may give you an idea of what you might expect:

Except for bulbs and parts mentioned below, *Kenmore Sewing Heads* will be repaired and parts will be replaced if they prove defective in workmanship or materials within following number of years: Models 27 and 39, 20 years; 46 and 47, 25 years; 76 and 90, 30 years. Belts, bobbins, needles, pulleys, 90 days. Electrical equipment, 1 year. Guarantee applies to home use only.

Nationwide availability of parts and service is also guaranteed.

### Instruction books

Instructions for zigzag sewing machines, unfortunately, are not always clear and helpful, and in some cases it seems that the translation has been too literally made from the original language. Even the skilled and experienced sewers who used the machines in CR's study had difficulty in following some of the directions. Poor indexing was another cause of complaint.

Consumers' Research recommends that any purchaser of a zigzag sewing machine avail herself of any sewing instruction courses that are offered.

At least inquire into what is available. *Singer* sewing machine dealers offer a "customer course" for purchasers of new or used *Singer* sewing machines that are priced at \$100 or more.

*Necchi* dealers offer purchasers of *Necchi* or *Elna* machines a basic sewing course of six lessons. These lessons are easy to understand and to follow with or without a teacher, but an instructor is still considered an asset for a sewing course. Some dealers offer courses of indeterminate length supposed to last until the consumer understands her machine.

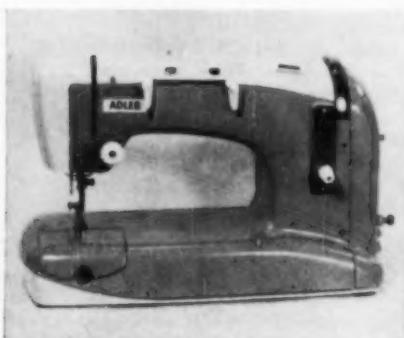
### Tests by Consumers' Research

Consumers' Research in making its study of sewing machines gave each an engineering examination and made sewing tests to determine the ease of using the machine, the ease of making the adjustments that were required, the ease of cleaning, and the performance of the machine in doing the kind of sewing for which it was sold.

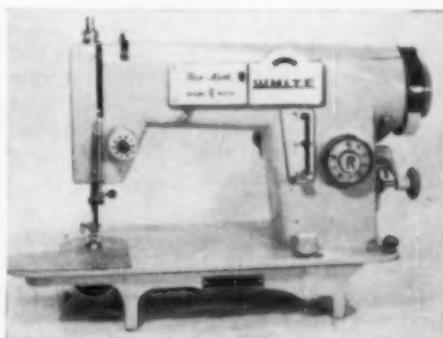
All the zigzag machines tested had the same features as the straight sewing machines reported in the March 1961 BULLETIN (see page 20 of that issue) and had a drop feed mechanism for darning and embroidering, except as noted in the listings.

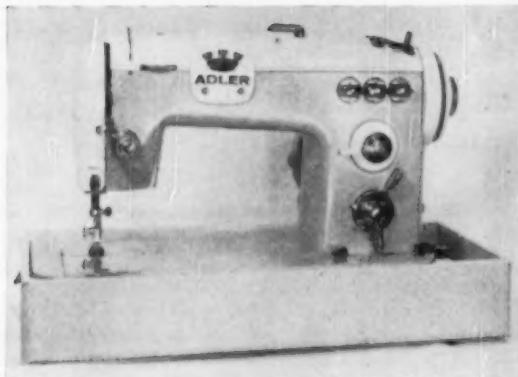
In addition, in sewing tests, the machines were found to be easy to thread, guide, and operate, and easy to adjust, both for tension of thread and stitch length, except as noted in the listings.

In addition, the machines were judged relatively easy to care for and the cover plates were easy to remove. All parts were accessible for cleaning, oiling, and greasing. There were, however, marked differences in the number of places which had to be greased or oiled. As many as 44 points required oiling on the *Singer 403A*; others did not have so many, but all zigzag machines required



Each of these two machines provide zigzag stitching. Steps I and II (the needle moving from side to side along the center line of stitching in one of two or three needle positions), but the Adler 300 appears to be a much more simple machine. On the other hand the controls on the White machine are much more plainly marked; there are instructions for inserting cams on the inside of the door (with White nameplate) covering the cam. The Adler weighed 15 pounds; the White, 33 pounds.





Each of these two machines is classified as a deluxe zigzag machine, although the Adler Victoria at the left affords a longer pattern extender than that provided by the Elna Supermatic. The Adler is confusing to look at, but the dial guide provided with it makes it easy to set up for zigzag sewing. The Elna has no pattern guide. Note the free arm, which is an advantage in some kinds of sewing. The Adler weighed 36-1/2 pounds; the Elna, 18 pounds.

oiling at a great number of different points, as might be expected with complicated machinery.

All the machines listed, with the exception of the *Singer 403A*, were given tests for electrical safety. Those tested had low leakage current, an indication of negligible shock hazard, under room conditions, and passed a test which affords a check on the safety and lasting qualities of the insulation.

Prices given are for sewing machines in portable cases, except as noted, and include a limited number of accessories—bobbins, screwdrivers, oilers, extra presser feet, etc., which differ from machine to machine.

#### **Limited zigzag sewing machines**

The simplest zigzag sewing machines make only a zigzag stitch, the needle moving from side to side along the center line of stitching (Step I, see "What zigzag sewing machines do," page 2). Patterns can be made automatically on some of them (such as the *Kenmore 46* and *Wards 8-cam* tested).

Patterned stitching must be done manually on two of the machines tested, the *Brother 190* and *White 2137*. Cams are provided to control the movement of the needle from side to side on two, the *Kenmore 46* and the *Wards 8-cam*.

Generally speaking, the users in CR's test preferred the two machines that had a cam control, because it was possible to make simple patterns with them easily.

All of these machines had the motor mounted on the back and were relatively heavy, ranging from 30 to 36 pounds in weight.

#### **A. Recommended**

**Kenmore, Model 46** (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 20-2007L2 and others) \$99.95, plus shipping. Made in Japan. Oscillating mechanism with bobbin in vertical position. Weight of head, 36 lb.

Automatic patterned stitching (Step I, see page 2) provided by cams. Eight cams supplied. This is a simple machine which is easily operated.

#### **A-**

**Brother Flairmatic, Model 190** (Distributed by Brother International Corp., 122 W. 27 St., New York 1) \$120. Oscillating mechanism with bobbin in vertical position, facing the operator. Weight of head, 30 lb. Fairly convenient machine to use, though bobbin case of sample tested cut thread. The shuttle was easily removed for cleaning by removing a thumbscrew, though it did not snap out as on other machines in this group. Somewhat difficult to adjust for satin stitch. Drop-feed control was located too close to post for easy use.

**Ward's Signature 8-Cam Automatic** (Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. 85-1784YB) \$97.95, plus shipping. Ten-lesson sewing course free. Made in Japan. Oscillating mechanism with bobbin in vertical position. Weight of head, 32½ lb.

Automatic patterned stitching (Step I) provided by a cam mounted on top of head. Eight cams supplied. A cam was needed for straight stitching also; without a cam, the machine sews a simple zigzag stitch. Upper thread tension was not indexed. Sewing of patterned stitches was uneven.

**White 2137** (Distributed by White Sewing Machine Corp., Cleveland) \$229.95. Made in Japan. Oscillating mechanism with bobbin in vertical position, facing the operator. Weight of head, 34 lb. Has a carrying handle on the head, a convenience for this relatively heavy machine. Fairly convenient machine to use. Unlike the straight-stitch *White* tested, this model has a snap-out shuttle which is easily removed for cleaning.

#### **Intermediate zigzag sewing machines**

Intermediate zigzag sewing machines provide more decorative stitches than the simple, limited zigzag sewing machines already discussed. They provide for zigzag stitching, Steps I and II (see "What zigzag sewing machines do," page 2).

Patterns are made automatically on all of these machines except the *Pfaff 259* on which patterns must be made with manual control. An automatic mechanism can be added to this machine to provide automatic control of the stitching (the machine is then the same as the *Pfaff 260*, see "Deluxe automatic zigzag sewing machines").

One of these machines, the *Brother Model 100*, has cams built in and the user simply dials the choice of pattern. The *Elna Automatic*, *Singer 403A*, and *White 3354* have separate cams; the *Adler 300* has separate pattern bars.

The *Adler 300*, *Elna Automatic*, *Pfaff 259*, and the two *Singer* machines had the motor built in (judged desirable). Two of these machines, the *Adler 300* and the *Elna*, were light in weight (15 pounds each). The *Singer* weighed 21 pounds, the *Brother* and the *White* weighed 33 pounds each, the *Pfaff* 34 pounds, relatively heavy.

Listed with this group is the *Singer 401A*, tested by Consumers' Research in 1958, and still in the *Singer* line.

#### A. Recommended

**Adler, Model 300** (Distributed by Belvedere-Adler Industries, 629 Grove St., Jersey City, N.J.) \$299.50. Made in West Germany. Rotary mechanism, bobbin in vertical position. Weight of head, 15 lb. Automatic zigzag sewing provided by vertical pattern bars. Five bars supplied with the machine, providing 10 patterns (2 on each bar). Bobbin winder lacks automatic release. Lacks a drop feed. Machine judged relatively noisy. Motor, a.c. only.

**Brother Super Selectomatic, Model 100** (Distributed by Brother International Corp.) \$170. Made in Japan. Oscillating mechanism with bobbin in vertical position. Weight of head, 33 lb. Automatic sewing provided by built-in cams, with pattern selection dialed. It is doubtful if the 100+ decorative patterns mentioned are actually provided, but the selection is numerous and varied. This machine, when tested, was less desirable than others in this group despite its greater convenience in having built-in cams. In addition, the patterns were not always produced accurately.

**Elna, Automatic** (Distributed by Necchi Sewing Machine Sales Corp., 164 W. 25 St., New York 1) \$279. Made in Switzerland. Rotary mechanism with bobbin in horizontal position. Weight of head, 15 lb. A portable machine, with an open arm. Automatic zigzag sewing provided by single cams; 12 cams supplied; additional cams available. A quiet machine and easy to use in general, though bobbin was judged relatively troublesome to remove. Lacks a drop feed. Instruction book was considered one of the less satisfactory ones; the sewing lessons provided with this machine, however, were good.

**Pfaff, Model 259** (Distributed by Pfaff American Sales Corp., 373 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.) \$349. Made in West Germany. Rotary mechanism with bobbin in vertical position, facing the operator. Weight of head, 34 lb. This sewing machine sews well but required manual control for patterns. A mechanism (about \$75) can be added to provide automatic control of stitching.

**Singer Slant-O-Matic, Model 401A** (The Singer Mfg. Co.) \$339.50 (portable); \$379.50 to \$484.50 in console cabinets or desks. A slant-needle machine. Rotary mechanism with bobbin in horizontal position. Weight of head, 21½ lb.

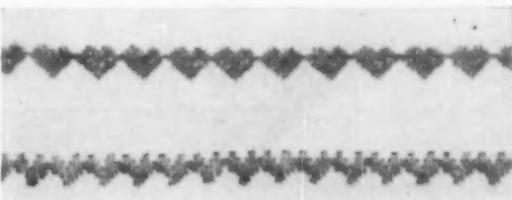
Automatic zigzag sewing (Steps I, II, see page 2) provided either by built-in cams or a series of interchangeable supplementary cams called fashion disks. Five such cams are supplied with the machine. A lid on the top of the machine carries a chart showing how the dials on the front of the head should be set to obtain the desired zigzag pattern. A threading guide is provided on the face plate. This machine was easily adjusted for stitch patterns and gave excellent results on all kinds of stitching. cr58

**Singer Slant-O-Matic, Model 403A** (The Singer Mfg. Co., 149 Broadway, New York 6) \$279.50. Made in U.S.A. A slant-needle machine. Rotary mechanism with bobbin in horizontal position. Weight of head, 21 lb.

Automatic zigzag sewing provided by single cams; nine cams supplied; additional cams available at 40c each. A neat machine that is easy to use and made neat patterns with excellent stitches. A clearly marked machine, except that the position for reverse stitching is not marked. Required use of a screwdriver to replace lamp. The slant-needle machine was easy to thread.

**White 3354** (Distributed by White Sewing Machine Corp.) \$299.95. Made in Japan. Oscillating mechanism with bobbin in vertical position, facing the operator. Weight of head, 33 lb.

Automatic zigzag sewing provided by single cams; 12 cams supplied, 8 for embroidery designs and 1 each for buttonholes, blind stitch, serpentine or curve stitch, and scallop pattern. This machine was relatively well marked, except for the built-in buttonhole control (see illustration). The door that covered the cam chamber carried instructions for inserting the cams. This was judged a great convenience. The bobbin was judged



The patterns made automatically on some zigzag machines do not always match the illustrations. These patterns are supposed to be hearts. The one at the top was made on the Necchi Mark II, the one at the bottom by the Ward's Signature 24-cam.

relatively difficult to insert and remove. The machine tested would not make a satin stitch; a minor adjustment should correct this.

### Deluxe automatic zigzag sewing machines

These machines are recommended only for women who want to have the best and most versatile machine available to them. The choice between the machines may lie in the kind of pattern that the woman thinks she will want.

The most versatile of these deluxe machines do four different kinds of zigzag sewing (see "What zigzag machines do," page 2). The *Adler 589A*, the *Necchi Mark II*, and the *Kenmore 90* each provides Steps I (zigzag), II (along several lines), III (reverse), zigzag sewing, and also Step IV (pattern extender). The next most versatile machines are the *Elna Supermatic* and the *Ward's Signature*, which provide Step I and Step II sewing and will also do reverse stitching automatically, Step III. Neither of these two machines, however, has means for extending the patterns

to any great extent without changing the stitch length and thus the character of the pattern.

The *Pfaff 260* and *360* (the portable model of the same mechanism) cannot do reverse stitching automatically, but provide Step I and II zigzag stitching patterns and have a pattern extender (Step IV). These machines ranged in weight from 18 to almost 37 pounds. The *Elna Supermatic* is the lightest weight; the *Adler Victoria* the heaviest. It is of some interest to note, however, that even the heaviest is less than a pound over the weight of the heaviest limited zigzag sewing machine.

All the machines in this group had built-in motors with the exception of the *Adler Victoria 589A* and the *Ward's Signature 24-cam*.

### A. Recommended

**Adler Victoria, Model 589A** (Belvedere-Adler Industries) \$379.50. Made in West Germany. Rotary mech-

A summary of some of the characteristics checked in CR's study of zigzag sewing machines

| Sewing machine                          | Judg-<br>ment<br>of ap-<br>pear-<br>ance | Ease<br>of<br>keep-<br>ing<br>clean | Ease<br>of<br>thread-<br>ing * | Ease<br>of<br>replac-<br>ing<br>bobbin | Ease<br>of<br>grip-<br>ping<br>con-<br>trols | Identifi-<br>cation<br>of<br>con-<br>trols | Ease<br>of<br>under-<br>stand-<br>ing<br>con-<br>trols | Clear-<br>ness<br>and<br>order<br>of in-<br>struc-<br>tion<br>book | Ease<br>of<br>replac-<br>ing<br>lamp | Arrange-<br>ment<br>of<br>wiring<br>con-<br>nectors | Ease<br>of<br>remov-<br>ing<br>shuttle<br>hook | Smooth-<br>ness<br>of<br>motor<br>control | Ease<br>of<br>adjust-<br>ing<br>stitch<br>length<br>for<br>satin<br>seam | Repro-<br>duc-<br>tion<br>of pic-<br>tured<br>auto-<br>matic<br>pat-<br>terns |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Limited zigzag machines</b>          |  |                                     |                                |  |  |  |  |  |                                      |   |  |   |  |   |
| Brother 190                             | G  | G                                   | F                              | P                                      | G  | F  | G  | F  | G                                    | F   | G  | P   | F  | ††  |
| Kenmore 46                              | G  | G                                   | G                              | G                                      | F  | F  | G  | G  | G                                    | G   | G  | F   | F  | G   |
| Ward's Signature 8-cam                  | F  | G                                   | G                              | G                                      | G  | F  | F  | G  | G                                    | F   | G  | F   | P  | F   |
| White 2137                              | G  | G                                   | F                              | P                                      | G  | F  | F  | G  | G                                    | F   | G  | F   | G  | ††  |
| <b>Intermediate zigzag machines</b>     |  |                                     |                                |  |  |  |  |  |                                      |   |  |   |  |   |
| Adler 300                               | G  | F to G                              | F                              | G                                      | G  | G  | G  | G  | G                                    | G   | *  | G   | G  | G   |
| Brother 100                             | F  | G                                   | G                              | G                                      | G  | F  | P  | P  | G                                    | F   | G  | P   | F  | F   |
| Elna Automatic                          | G  | F                                   | F                              | P                                      | F  | F  | G  | P  | P                                    | G   | *  | G   | G  | G   |
| Pfaff 259                               | G  | F                                   | G†                             | F                                      | G  | F  | G  | G  | G                                    | G   | *  | G   | G  | ††  |
| Singer 403A                             | G  | G                                   | G‡                             | G                                      | G  | G  | G  | G  | F                                    | G   | F  | G   | G  | G   |
| White 3354                              | G  | G                                   | F                              | P                                      | G  | G***                                       | F  | G  | G                                    | F   | G  | F   | P  | G   |
| <b>Deluxe automatic zigzag machines</b> |  |                                     |                                |  |  |  |  |  |                                      |   |  |   |  |   |
| Adler 589A                              | G  | G                                   | P                              | P                                      | G  | F  | G**  | G  | G                                    | G   | *  | F   | G  | G   |
| Elna Supermatic                         | G  | F                                   | F                              | P                                      | F  | F  | F  | P  | G                                    | G   | *  | G   | F  | G   |
| Kenmore 90                              | F  | G                                   | F§                             | G                                      | G  | F  | F  | G  | F                                    | G   | G  | F   | G  | F   |
| Necchi Mark II                          | F  | G                                   | G†                             | G                                      | G  | F  | G**  | F  | G                                    | G   | G  | G   | G  | G   |
| Pfaff 260                               | G  | F                                   | G†                             | F                                      | G  | F  | G**  | G  | G                                    | G   | *  | G   | G  | G   |
| Pfaff 360                               | G  | F                                   | G†                             | G                                      | G  | F  | G**  | G  | G                                    | G   | *  | G   | G  | G   |
| Ward's Signature 24-cam                 | G  | G                                   | F                              | G                                      | F  | F  | F  | G  | G                                    | F   | G  | F   | G  | F   |

\* Users objected to all needles which thread front to back unless a threader is provided on the machine, because the usual manual needle threader cannot be used on these machines.

G—Good; F—Fair; P—Poor.

† Not necessary to remove to clean.

‡ Has attached threader.

\*\* Has pattern selection disk.

† Needle threads from front to back, but is slanted.

§ With exceptions noted in listing.

§ A separate manual needle threader for front-to-back threading provided; threading, using it, was good.

†† No automatic pattern provided.

anism with bobbin in vertical position, facing the operator. Weight of head with portable base, 36½ lb.

Automatic zigzag sewing (Steps I, II, III, IV, see page 2) provided by metal cams. Four multi-cam assemblies supplied; additional cams available. This machine was judged confusing in appearance, but the instructions were clear, and the dial card provided for selecting the patterns was easy to use, although it might have been made of stronger material. Threading was considered the least convenient of all the machines included in the study. An operator who used it regularly, however, would likely have little, if any, difficulty.

**Kenmore, Model 90** (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 20-2016L2) \$189.95, plus shipping. Made in Japan. Oscillating mechanism with bobbin in vertical position, facing the operator. Weight of head, 39 lb.

Automatic zigzag sewing (Steps I, II, III, IV, see page 2) provided by cams; 30 supplied with the machine. Had an automatic buttonholer accessory and circle decorator attachment. This machine had a great many knobs and buttons, not identified on the machine, but all were well explained in the instruction book. Buttonhole attachment was judged very easy to use. The extender control of this machine did not lengthen the pattern as much as the *Necchi*'s, but longer than the *Elna*'s. Three pattern cams did not produce the pictured patterns.

**Necchi, Supernova Ultra Mark II** (Distributed by Necchi Sewing Machine Sales Corp.) \$339. Made in Italy. Oscillating mechanism with bobbin in vertical position. Weight of head, 29 lb.

Automatic zigzag sewing (Steps I, II, III, and IV, see page 2) provided by interchangeable cams or cam assemblies; 13 cam assemblies, one buttonhole cam, one bushing, and 14 single cams to enable the user to make up additional assemblies supplied. This is a smooth running, easily used machine, once the controls are understood (only the reverse is marked). Instructions for setting controls for different patterns are given on the cover of the box which is made of plastic, judged convenient to use, but instruction book itself was considered only fair. Machine had a built-in motor with two speed ranges.

\* \* \*

**Elna Supermatic** (Distributed by Necchi Sewing Machine Corp.) \$305. Made in Switzerland. Rotary mechanism with bobbin in horizontal position behind the needle. Weight of head, 18 lb. A portable machine with an open arm.

Automatic zigzag sewing (Steps I, II, and III, see page 2) provided by cams. Eight single and seven double pattern disks supplied with the machine. Additional cams available. This is a neat, clean looking, quiet machine that was easy to use once it was understood. Controls were not identified in any way. Instruction book considered one of the less satisfactory ones, and no separate pattern guide was provided. Bobbin, in horizontal position behind the needle, was judged troublesome to remove. Although the lower tension was numbered it was difficult to get it loose enough to provide a good satin stitch. Ease of threading judged only fair. Lacks a drop feed. Had a "stitch tuner" which lengthens or shortens the stitch patterns a little, without changing the character of the stitch.



What to do with the cams and accessories can be a real problem with a zigzag sewing machine. Montgomery Ward did a good job in providing a case for the cams and accessories of their 24-cam machine. Note the molded plastic inset box for accommodating odd-shaped accessory pieces.

**Pfaff, Model 260** (Distributed by Pfaff American Sales Corp.) \$325, head only; in medium-priced cabinet, \$399. This machine is sold only in a console. Made in West Germany. Rotary mechanism with bobbin in vertical position, facing the operator. Weight, 35 lb. Automatic zigzag stitching (Steps I, II, and IV, see page 2) provided by built-in cams. Operator turns dial on the front and top of the machine to select pattern. An easy machine to use, quiet and smooth running. Settings of the machine for stitching are given on an embroidery design dial which is made of a plastic material and judged relatively durable. Instruction book was good also; accessories were shown numbered and the same number appeared on the parts. The bobbin must be inserted from below, viewed from the top, considered a disadvantage by some users. (The front door of the console is opened to provide access to the bobbin.)

**Pfaff, Model 360** (Distributed by Pfaff American Sales Corp.) \$359. Weight of head, 24½ lb. Rotary mechanism with bobbin in vertical position, facing the operator. A portable sewing machine, similar to the *Pfaff Model 260* already listed, but it has a free arm and is lighter in weight.

Automatic zigzag stitching (Steps I, II, IV, see page 2) provided by built-in cams. The bobbin on this machine was easy to insert and remove because a small hinged door on the end of the free arm swings back to give access to the shuttle and bobbin.

**Ward's Signature Imperial 24-cam** (Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. 85-1740Y0) \$174.95, plus shipping. Made in Japan. Oscillating mechanism, with bobbin in vertical position. Weight of head, 32 lb.

Automatic zigzag sewing (Steps I, II, and III, see page 2) provided by cams. 12 single cams and 12 double cams supplied with the machine; additional cams available. This machine was generally convenient to use (although upper thread tension adjustment was not indexed). The knobs controlling the width of the zigzag stitch, however, are so small and smooth that they are hard to turn and consequently sometimes are not engaged properly. Some pattern cams did not produce the pictured patterns.

## New shaping tools

THE do-it-yourself trend in modern living has encouraged manufacturers to offer an amazing variety of tools designed for the use of the home handyman and promoted with sales pitches that emphasize unusual and novel designs and characteristics. More often than not, the new devices are strictly in the gadget class, and hardly deserve to be called "tools," but a few do involve useful innovations.

There is now available in hardware stores and by mail order a new family of hand and power-drill-driven tools which shape, trim, and form wood, plastic, and other relatively soft materials, including some metals, in much the same way as does a file, rasp, or plane. This report discusses three brands of hand tools, and three of the drum type for use in drills. Tests and experience show that these tools are all of a useful nature and not to be classified as mere novelties and gadgets.

### New kinds of "files" and "planes"

The hand tools under consideration are more closely similar to rasps, perhaps, than to any other traditional tools. They have handles similar to those on files and rasps, or on planes (see Figure 1); their blades are removable and replaceable. The brand we have seen most widely advertised and distributed is *Surform*, made by Stanley Tools. *Surform* file-type or plane-type handles can be fitted with flat or half-round tool-steel blades, and a full-round blade may be used with a special file-type handle for this shape blade only. The blades are made of thin sheets of tool steel, with multiple teeth or cutters on their sur-

faces, very similar in nature and appearance to the teeth on the old-fashioned vegetable and cheese grater still much used in kitchens. The teeth are staggered to give freer cutting, and the chips produced pass through the openings in the teeth; with this construction, clogging is less of a problem than with the ordinary rasp or file.

Two other kinds of tools similar to those described, yet different in certain respects, are *Plane 'R File* made by Millers Falls Co. and the *Craftsman Rasplane* tools distributed by Sears, Roebuck & Co. Both of these brands, as can be seen in the photograph (Figure 1), have blades on which the teeth are formed by the raised edges of two rows of parallel punched slits. The cutting action of this type of blade was judged a little slower than that of the *Surform* type, possibly a disadvantage in some respects but not necessarily always a handicap since it is somewhat easier to control one's work with the slower cutting tools. On all of these tools, the teeth did not extend to the edges of the blades; thus the tools could not be used in corners as effectively as an ordinary rasp or file. The *Craftsman Rasplane* was least objectionable in this respect.

The *Plane 'R File* handle is adjustable to two positions so that the tool may be held and used in a manner similar to either a plane or a file. There are two separate *Rasplane* tools, one similar to a plane and the other to a file. Another difference is that blades for the *Plane 'R File* may be turned over and used on the reverse side when the teeth become dull on one side; such reversal of blades is not possible with the *Rasplane*.

On either type of *Rasplane* and on the *Plane*

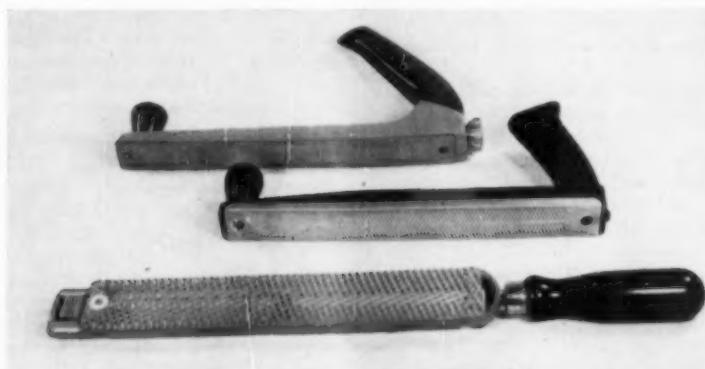


Figure 1—Top to bottom: Plane 'R File, with its handle in the plane position; the plane-type Craftsman Rasplane; and a Surform file-type tool.

'R File, the blade is held in place by studs which project through two holes in the blade, one near each end. Unfortunately, the studs project above the surface of the blade, and thus can cause scratches or gouges in the work unless the tools are used in such a way that the ends of the blades do not pass over the work. It would seem that this difficulty could have been avoided if a little more care had been expended in designing the tools. The *Surform* blades are held by clamps below their surfaces, and thus their use does not involve the same possibility of gouging the work.

Both the *Rasplane* and *Plane 'R File* tools were found to work satisfactorily on hard and soft woods, composition boards, plastics, and asphalt tiles, and on various metals, performing essentially the work of a file, rasp, or plane. The *Surform* hand tools could also be used on all these materials, provided a fine-tooth blade was used when required, but the *Surform* tools required a good deal more care in use than the others when used on metals or hard materials, especially in starting a cut. (The blade tended to stick at the beginning of movement, on its first strokes.)

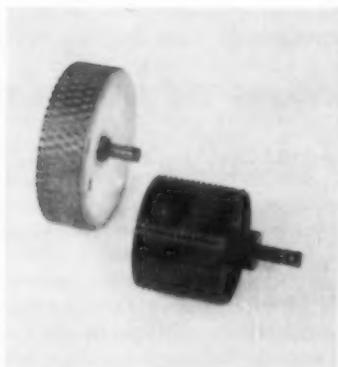


Figure 2—Left to right: the Supreme and Kut-All drum-type cutters for use in a drill press or power-operated hand drill.

#### Rotating tools for use in drill or drill press

There are a number of cylindrical tools with "potato-grater" teeth, designed to be held in a chuck and rotated. Two tools of this general sort are shown in Figure 2, though the *Supreme* (on the left) has teeth which are not cut through to allow chips to pass through. In practice, however, this tool gave no trouble with clogging, as the chips fell away from the surface. The *Kut-All* on the right and the *Surform* rotary tool, not

shown in the picture, had holes cut through the teeth.

The three rotary cutting tools worked satisfactorily both in a drill press and in a hand-held quarter-inch drill. These tools can do damage if they are used carelessly and should not be made available to children, who may injure household articles, perhaps suffer serious abrasions to face, hands, or arms in case of accident.

#### Other tools and blades

In addition to the file- and plane-like tools already discussed, and the drum type, the *Surform* line includes a smaller "pocket" tool,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, with flat and half-round blades. There is also a curved (convex) tool which holds the standard 10-inch flat blades. Abrasive-coated, non-cutting blades are available for the *Plane 'R File*, *Rasplane*, and *Surform* tools; with these blades the tools may be used for certain types of sanding operations.

#### A. Recommended

**Kut-All** (Made in West Germany; distributed by Copley Sales Corp., 721 Carroll Place, Teaneck, N.J.) \$2.50, postpaid. Drum-type cutter,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diameter,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. high,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. shank.

**Supreme Rotary Rasp** (Made in West Germany; distributed by Scott Mitchell House, 415 S. Broadway, Yonkers, N.Y.) \$1.98, plus postage.  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in. in diameter,  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. high,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. shank.

**Surform** (The Stanley Works, New Britain, Conn.) \$2.69 for file-type handle with flat 10-in. blade; same handle with half-round blade, \$2.89; full-round blade and handle, \$2.39; plane-type holder or convex tool, \$3.69; miniature  $5\frac{1}{2}$ -in. tool, \$1.59 with flat blade, \$1.79 with half-round blade; replacement blades, abrasive or cutting, from 75c to \$1.19 each. Drum-type cutter, 2 in. in diameter,  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. high,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. shank, to be held in drill chuck, \$2.29; replacement blade, \$1.79.

#### B. Intermediate

**Craftsman Rasplane** (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 9-6771 for file type, Cat. No. 9-6770 for plane type) \$2.23, file type; \$2.52, plane type; cutting and abrasive replacement blades, 74c and \$1.17; all prices plus shipping. Protruding studs which hold the blade make possible gouging of the work (see text).

**Plane 'R File** (Millers Falls Co., Greenfield, Mass.) \$3.49; replacement cutting and abrasive blades, 98c and 89c. Handle adjustable to file or plane position. Protruding studs which hold the blade make possible gouging of the work. Reversible blades, which can be used on second side after first is dulled, are an advantage over the *Rasplane* tools, listed above.



Photo courtesy of Frigidaire Div. of General Motors Corp

## Built-in electric cooking appliances

*A built-in cooking appliance has some obvious advantages and some disadvantages as compared with a free-standing range. If you have decided on "built-ins," this article will enable you to choose the brand which comes closest to meeting your particular cooking and baking requirements.*

### Oven-door windows

It is a real convenience to be able to look at a cake or biscuits while they are baking without need to open the oven door. It is still better if a separate switch is provided so that the oven light can be turned on from the outside, with the door closed. But the advantage of the window stops there, and certain disadvantages become apparent. Indeed, in some instances you may be happier without a window in your oven door, and if you have to buy a less expensive model because the more expensive ovens all have windows, so much the better.

As to the windows' disadvantages, first of all, Consumers' Research has always found glass windows very hot—indeed much hotter than the door areas surrounding them—and warned of the possibility of a dangerous burn if a window should be touched by the housewife or a child when the oven was heated. Secondly, the window tends to reduce the electrical efficiency of the oven—more

watt-hours are needed to maintain desired temperatures—and this extra heat is added to that in an already hot kitchen in the summertime.

Another factor noted in the present series of tests concerns the actual baking qualities of the oven. If you are baking biscuits or a two-layer cake and it is necessary to place the pan or pans relatively close to the glass window, the row of biscuits next to the window does not bake as fast as those further back in the oven. Very likely the oven is cooler in that area.

### Oven venting

It has been standard practice of manufacturers for many years to incorporate a vent in both gas and electric ovens. A sizable vent is needed in a gas oven so that products of combustion will be carried away and sufficient fresh air be available to the burner for proper combustion. In an electric oven, the vent functions primarily to carry off water and grease as vapor, and also smoke, if

a pie, for example, should boil over and the liquid burn when it strikes the hot oven floor. If an exhaust fan, properly placed, is used in the kitchen, a goodly proportion of these by-products of baking are expelled to the outdoors. If you are not fortunate enough to have an exhaust fan, moisture and grease condense on windows, walls, and woodwork, particularly in a closed home in the wintertime, and give rise to a need for frequent washing or refinishing of soiled interior surfaces.

Five of the eight built-in electric ovens tested did not have a vent, and in the remaining three the size of the vent was smaller than normally found in electric ranges. Very likely, the ventless ovens will tend to collect grease faster than those with vents, but since all but the *Norge* and *Westinghouse* had means for removing (or dropping) the door, an arrangement which greatly facilitates oven cleaning, the no-vent system may be the preferable one simply because it is easier to clean the oven than repaint or wash the kitchen walls and woodwork. Slight venting was provided in the ventless ovens through intentional "cracks" at the tops or bottoms of the doors.

The question also arises as to whether or not a vent is needed to provide good baking characteristics. Consumers' Research tests of the ovens in free-standing electric ranges and built-in ovens have not indicated that vents are essential. Indeed, the *Tappan* oven in the present series of tests was relatively tight (except for a very narrow gap along the top of the door) and the *Tappan*'s baking characteristics were among the best of the ovens tested.

#### Oven performance

Good performance in baking is dependent upon several factors, probably the most important of which is the evenness of temperature distribution within the oven. While evenness of temperature can be evaluated by laboratory measurements, it is good practice to check those measurements by actual baking tests. It should be noted that in the home it is entirely possible that an oven found in our tests to have good baking qualities may be a poor performer because of some aspect of the way it is used. As an example, if too many cake tins are placed on one shelf, the normal flow of heated air within the oven may be blocked to the extent that temperatures beneath the pans will be too high (the temperature excess may be 75 to 100 degrees or more), and this difference may be sufficient to give poor results in baking or roasting. If you have difficulty with your baking, consult the instruction book for the oven before calling the serviceman. Possibly the fault is in the manner of use of the oven rather than in any deficiency in the oven itself.

Of course, a well-tried recipe can't be expected to turn out right if the oven thermostat doesn't maintain a temperature pretty close to that called for by the particular kind of cake, pie, or other food to be prepared. Generally, when we make our first test on a range we find that very few of the thermostats turn the oven on and off at the temperature indicated on the thermostat dial. It is evident, therefore, that the purchaser should insist before closing the purchase of a new range that the dealer agree to check the thermostat operation, preferably at 375 degrees, for accuracy after he has installed the appliance in the home. To determine oven temperature, high and low readings should be taken and averaged for at least three complete on-off cycles. A single reading is of little value for checking an oven thermostat.

#### Broiler performance

To broil a steak properly, especially if the steak is to be done rare, it is necessary that radiant heat be supplied at a rapid rate. If it is not, the steak will gradually be cooked through, rather than be broiled. A steak broiled too slowly will turn out to be pretty tasteless and may, at worst, seem almost to have been boiled rather than broiled.

In an electric oven, the speed with which broiling can be accomplished is generally dependent upon the wattage rating of the broiler element. A bright- or light-colored reflecting surface above the element also helps to direct back to the food some of the heat that would otherwise be absorbed by the oven liner. In our tests to determine

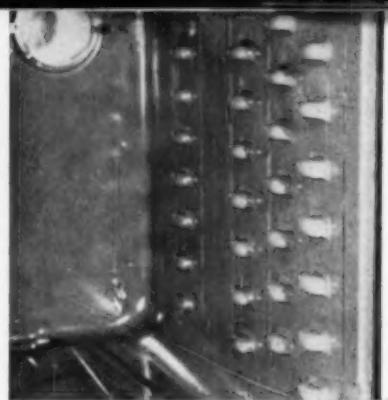


Because of its location beneath the door, it was necessary to stoop to set the clock-timer on the Westinghouse oven.



At the left—The insulation in the Kenmore oven settled somewhat, apparently during shipment. This condition would tend to reduce oven efficiency.

At the right—The knob-type rack slides in the Westinghouse oven present a difficult cleaning problem.



"speed of broiling" it was found that with one exception, the *Norge*, broiling speed was fairly closely proportional to the wattage of the broiler element.

In any electric oven, the user would be well advised to turn on the broiler element and allow it to come up to full heat before inserting the food to be broiled. With this method, broiling will start off fast, as is desirable. The oven door should be left ajar during the broiling period.

Another important characteristic of a broiler is the evenness with which the heat is radiated. In some broilers, because of the shape of the broiler element, or the design of the reflector (or lack of one), heat is concentrated in an area smaller than the broiler pan rack. If a small steak is to be broiled, the result may be satisfactory. However, when a large steak or several chops or hamburgers, sufficient in area to cover the broiler grill, are to be broiled, the center portions may be properly cooked but the areas at the ends or sides of the pan will not receive enough heat and be unsatisfactorily broiled and flavorless. A broiler which provides speed with good broiler pan coverage is much to be desired in any electric range.

#### Counter-top burners

The built-in counter-top units perform in a way very similar to their counterparts in the more popular free-standing ranges. All of the brands tested had four burners, and the type of burner element used was identical in most instances to that available on the regular ranges. Thus, as with the ovens, the built-in units offer no advantages in the way they cook and bake. Indeed, the free-standing and newer type oven-on-top ranges may be expected to be practically identical in the way they cook.

The built-in ovens are relatively easy to clean because one does not have to stoop to reach inside. The counter-top units are difficult to keep clean because the control panel lies flat and thus tends to catch dust and any food and grease particles that may be spattered or spilled during the cooking operation. In the regular free-standing electric ranges the control panel is usually vertical, and hence collects less dust and grease.

The position of the controls on a counter-top unit also makes them more difficult to set than those on a range, and with some the user must lean over and look down upon them to be sure of obtaining the desired setting. For the same reason one who is standing only a short distance away cannot tell easily the position at which they are set. Indeed, even the lights used to indicate that one or more elements was turned on—the *Kenmore* was a notable exception—were in most instances difficult to see from a few feet away.

#### Ease of servicing

The manufacturers have obviously followed the current and welcome trend in appliance design and given considerable extra thought to provide ready access to those parts of the built-in units tested which may be expected to need adjustment, repair, or replacement. On all but the *Kenmore* and *Tappan* ovens, the control panel could be removed easily and switches, lights, clocks, etc., replaced without pulling the oven away from the wall (always troublesome, and sometimes seriously so). In addition, in those ovens in which the bake and broil elements are not removable, replacements can be made from the front; it is not necessary to remove the oven.

A similar trend was noticeable in most of the counter-top units; on these it was necessary only to remove a few screws to replace a switch. On only one, the *Kenmore*, was it necessary to remove or lift the complete unit from its place in the counter top to accomplish this repair.

The use of "plug-in" elements in the *Kenmore*, *Norge*, and *Westinghouse* units also makes element replacement in these makes a simple job for the housewife and may have the added advantage of eliminating a service charge at some future date. The heating element itself should never be immersed when cleaning the unit, for moisture may seep into the element or lodge around the connectors and create a dangerous electrical hazard. When the insulation used to separate the heating wire from the outer metallic covering of the element becomes wet or damp, as it will in humid weather, stray electric currents flow from the wire

to the frame of the unit. This stray current, called leakage current, can present a dangerous hazard of electrical shock, particularly if the "ground" connection provided by the manufacturer or installer is not a sure one.

New 1961 models of some brands have recently become available but are not significantly different from the corresponding models tested and reported herein.

### Built-in ovens

#### A. Recommended

**Frigidaire, Model RBB-94-CH** (Frigidaire Div., General Motors Corp., Dayton 1, Ohio) \$180. This was

the largest oven tested, and the most efficient in use of electricity. The "drop-down" door to facilitate cleaning is unique and a very satisfactory arrangement. Performance characteristics: baking, good; broiling, good.

**General Electric, Model J722T5BC** (General Electric Co., Appliance Park, Louisville 1) \$210. The GE was the widest and shallowest oven tested, giving an advantage in ease of cleaning. Performance characteristics: baking, good; broiling, average.

**Hotpoint, Model 20RJ34-A** (Hotpoint Co., 5600 W. Taylor St., Chicago 44) \$153. Hotpoint engineers are to be commended for the design of the door on this oven. Its construction is such that its exterior remained relatively cool even after the oven had been operated at 500° for more than 1 hr. Performance characteristics: baking, good; broiling, average. ¶1961 model is similar.

Table showing some of the physical characteristics of the built-in electric ovens and counter-top range units tested by Consumers' Research

|   | Frigidaire | General Electric | Hotpoint | Kenmore      | Norge        | RCA Whirlpool | Tappan      | Westinghouse |
|---|------------|------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Ovens</b>                                |            |                  |          |              |              |               |             |              |
| Size, cubic feet                            | 3.7        | 3.2              | 3.0      | 3.3          | 2.8          | 2.9           | 2.9         | 2.9          |
| Racks, area, square feet                    | 4.1        | 4.2              | 3.8      | 3.7          | 3.8          | 3.5           | 3.8         | 3.6          |
| Grid rods, spacing, inches*                 | 0.9        | 1.0              | 1.3      | 0.9          | 1.5          | 1.0           | 1.3         | 1.4          |
| Lining, ease of cleaning                    | Sat.       | Good             | Good     | Sat.         | Sat.         | Fair          | Poor        |              |
| Protected light?                            | yes        | no               | no       | no           | none         | no            | no          | yes          |
| Window in door?                             | no         | no               | no       | no†          | no           | yes           | no          | yes          |
| Controls, readability of marking            | Good       | Good             | Fair     | Sat.         | Fair         | Sat.          | Sat.        | Fair         |
| Clock-timer?                                | yes        | yes              | yes      | yes          | yes          | yes           | yes         | yes          |
| Readability of markings                     | Sat.       | Good             | Sat.     | Sat.         | Fair         | Fair          | Fair        | Sat.         |
| Ease of setting                             | Sat.       | Good             | Good     | Sat.         | Sat.         | Fair          | Sat.        | Fair         |
| Removable oven door?                        | no**       | yes              | yes      | yes          | no           | yes           | yes         | no           |
| Oven vent?                                  | no         | yes              | yes      | no           | no           | no            | no          | yes          |
| Ease of servicing                           | Good       | Good             | Good     | Sat.         | Sat.         | Good          | Sat.        | Good         |
| Construction                                | Good       | Good             | Good     | Sat.         | Sat.         | Good          | Good        | Good         |
| <b>Counter-top units</b>                    |            |                  |          |              |              |               |             |              |
| Raised edge?                                | yes        | no               | —        | yes          | yes          | yes           | no          | no           |
| Position of controls                        | left front | left front       | —        | center front | center front | right side    | center rear | center front |
| Ease of cleaning                            | Sat.       | Sat.             | —        | Good         | Good         | Sat.          | Good        | Good         |
| Easily removable elements?                  | no         | no               | —        | yes          | yes          | no            | no          | yes          |
| Counter space required?                     |            |                  |          |              |              |               |             |              |
| Width, inches                               | 32.2       | 30.7             | —        | 31.0         | 28.8         | 30.0          | 33.0        | 34.3         |
| Depth, inches                               | 20.3       | 21.3             | —        | 21.0         | 21.0         | 21.0          | 20.5        | 21.3         |
| Below, inches                               | 3.5        | 5.3              | —        | 2.8          | 3            | 3             | 3           | 6            |
| Number and visibility of indicator light(s) | 1—Sat.     | 1—Good           | —        | 4—Good       | 1—Sat.       | none          | 1—Fair      | 1—Fair       |
| Type of burner control                      | Continuous | Step‡            | —        | Continuous   | Step         | Step          | Step        | Continuous   |
| Control marking, readability                | Fair       | Good             | —        | Fair         | Poor         | Sat.          | Sat.        | Good         |
| Ease of servicing                           | Good       | Good             | —        | Fair         | Sat.         | Sat.          | Good        | Good         |

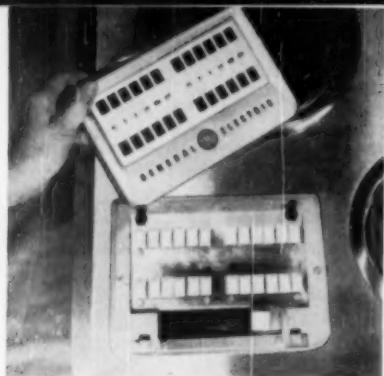
\* The grid rods in the racks should be less than 1.3 inches apart.

† Inner glass door.

\*\* Door drops below horizontal for ease of cleaning, but is not removable.

‡ Push buttons.

Sat.—Satisfactory.



Left—The backing plate behind the push buttons on the General Electric counter-top unit was easily removed for cleaning.

Right—The face of the clock-timer on the Tappan oven was judged one of the least legible of those in the models tested.



#### A-

**RCA Whirlpool, Model HE15P** (Whirlpool Corp., Hamilton Div., Hamilton, Ohio) \$150. The *RCA Whirlpool* oven was well constructed and generally well designed. Performance characteristics: baking, satisfactory; broiling, fast, and comparatively even over the broiler pan

#### B. Intermediate

**Kenmore, Model 101-44410** (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 22-44410N) \$170, plus shipping. This oven featured a smooth chrome-plated steel interior (the oven rack guides are removable), a rotisserie, and a separate, removable, glass door fitting between the regular removable door and the oven (see page 23). Performance char-

Table summarizing the results of the tests on built-in electric cooking appliances

|                                     | Frigidaire | General Electric | Hotpoint | Kenmore | Norge     | RCA Whirlpool | Tappan | Westinghouse |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------|---------|-----------|---------------|--------|--------------|
| <b>Surface burners</b>              |            |                  |          |         |           |               |        |              |
| <b>Number and efficiencies of</b>   |            |                  |          |         |           |               |        |              |
| Regular, small                      | —          | 1—high           | —        | —       | 2—avg.    | 2—avg.        | 2—avg. | 1—low        |
| Regular, large                      | —          | 1—high           | —        | 1—high  | 1—high    | 1—high        | 2—high | 2—avg.       |
| High-speed, small                   | 2—low      | 1—avg.           | —        | 2—avg.  | —         | 1—avg.        | —      | —            |
| High-speed, large                   | 2—low      | 1—avg.           | —        | —       | —         | —             | —      | —            |
| Temperature-controlled              | —          | —                | —        | 1—avg.  | 1—avg.    | —             | —      | 1—low        |
| <b>Time to boil in minutes*</b>     |            |                  |          |         |           |               |        |              |
| Regular, small                      | —          | 7                | —        | —       | 7.5       | 7.7           | 7.3    | 8.1          |
| Regular, large                      | —          | 7.6              | —        | 7.5     | 7.5       | 7.4           | 8.2    | 8.1          |
| High-speed, small**                 | 6.7        | 5.2              | —        | 5.8     | —         | 6.4           | —      | —            |
| High-speed, large**                 | 8.0        | 6.4              | —        | —       | —         | —             | —      | —            |
| Temperature-controlled              | —          | —                | —        | 6.3     | 8.7       | —             | —      | 6.2          |
| Degree of burner levelness, overall | Poor-Fair  | Good             | —        | Good    | Fair-Good | Good          | Fair   | Fair-Good    |
| <b>Oven</b>                         |            |                  |          |         |           |               |        |              |
| Time to preheat to 500°, minutes    | 9.8        | 10.0             | 8.5      | 4.6     | 13.2      | 5.1           | 18.0   | 15.0         |
| Biscuit baking                      |            |                  |          |         |           |               |        |              |
| Watt-hours used per cubic foot†     | 260        | 290              | 290      | 280     | 330       | 320           | 325    | 320          |
| Baking characteristics              | Good       | Good             | Good     | Fair    | Sat.      | Sat.          | Good   | Fair         |
| Door temperature                    | High       | High             | Low      | High    | High      | High          | Low    | High         |
| Handle temperature                  | Sat.       | Sat.             | Low      | High    | Low       | Sat.          | Low    | Sat.         |
| <b>Broiler</b>                      |            |                  |          |         |           |               |        |              |
| Speed of broiling                   | Fast       | Avg.             | Avg.     | Fast    | Slow      | Fast          | Slow   | Slow         |
| Evenness of heat distribution       | Sat.       | Fair             | Sat.     | Fair    | Fair      | Sat.          | Fair   | Poor         |

\* Based on boiling 1 quart of water on small burners, 2 quarts of water on large burners, in standard utensil.

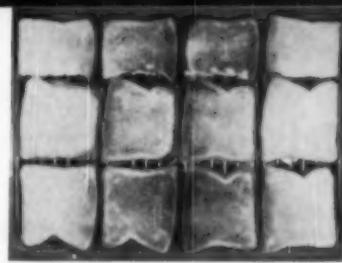
\*\* Based on wattage rating of burner, not manufacturer's specifications.

† A measure of economy of use of the oven, with due allowance for its size.

Sat.—Satisfactory; Avg.—Average.



Evenness of broiler heat distribution is judged by toasting bread. In the Frigidaire (left), the bread was fairly evenly browned over the whole area of the pan. In the Kenmore (right), uneven toasting shows how heat was concentrated in the central area of the pan.



acteristics: baking, fair; broiling, fast, but uneven—the heat was considerably more intense close to the central area of the broiler pan than at the edges (satisfactory for a small steak, or 4 or 5 chops or hamburgers).

**Norge, Model EWO-11C** (Norge Sales Corp., Merchandise Mart Plaza, Chicago 54) \$170. The *Norge* oven was the least efficient in the use of electricity of the models tested. Performance characteristics: baking, satisfactory; broiling, slow, and relatively uneven.

**Tappan, Model E0410L2** (The Tappan Co., Mansfield, Ohio) \$175.50. Not the best oven for a home where steaks broiled rare are not a rarity. The oven took a long time to preheat. Performance characteristics: baking, very good; broiling, slow, and evenness of heat distribution only fair.

### C. Not Recommended

**Westinghouse, Model OBB21XT1** (Westinghouse Electric Corp., Mansfield, Ohio) \$190. In CR's judgment, the *Westinghouse* oven did not offer a great deal to recommend its purchase. Performance characteristics: baking, only fair; broiling, slow, and the heat distribution over the broiler pan was poor.

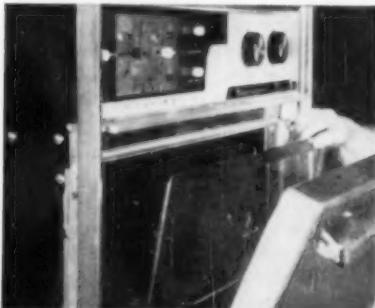
## Counter-top cooking units

### A. Recommended

**General Electric, Model J822T2SS** (General Electric Co.) \$40. In an over-all appraisal, this unit is judged slightly preferable to any other brand tested. Performance characteristics: burner efficiency and speed of heating were higher than average, overall.

### A-

**Kenmore, Model 101-43610** (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 22-43610N) \$129.95, plus shipping. Judged to be somewhat above average in over-all qualities. Two good features are the lights which indicate individual burner operation, and the easily removable burner elements. Performance characteristics: the burners were slightly

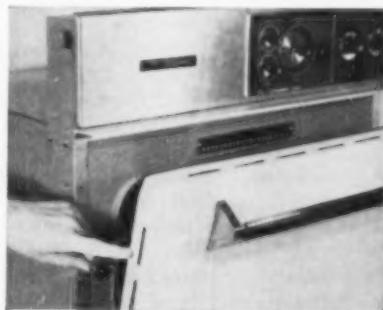


At the left—The glass door located between the oven and the regular oven door on the Kenmore was a feature of dubious value and subject to easy breakage.

At the right—The secret of the cool door on the Hotpoint was the slots around the door which allowed free circulation of air behind the front door panel.

### C. Not Recommended

**Hotpoint, Model 107 RUY 35** (Hotpoint Corp.) \$109. Leakage current from this unit was excessive (even allowing for the fact that the appliance is one that will be grounded in normal use). Because of the high leakage current (a measure of the potential shock hazard to the user), performance tests were not run.



# Critics of food adulteration given the brush-off

**Government officials regard as crackpots and cultists those who object to being dosed constantly with unwanted and poisonous chemicals—chemicals which the individual consumer has no way of avoiding**

An enlightened and informed consumer, who has carried on correspondence with the U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare on the alarming practice of modifying and adulterating food materials by a great number of chemical additives of uncertain purity, composition, and safety has given Consumers' Research permission to reprint his correspondence in our Bulletin. The additives are of many kinds; among the most common are chemicals used for dyeing, bleaching, acidifying, alkalizing, emulsifying, thickening, keeping foods moist, keeping them from caking or from foaming or spattering, speeding up manufacturing processes, delaying the onset of stale appearance or flavor. These are all chemicals that are typically not used or needed in good cooking in the home or in restaurants of the better sort. The accompanying article is in the main a selection of parts of Mr. Bagley's letters. Those who think that government officials are, to say the least, casual in their handling of the problem of chemical additives in food products and resistant to criticisms by "outsiders," that is, the taxpayers who pay officials' salaries, will find much of interest in this correspondence.

ONE of our subscribers, Mr. Guy A. Bagley of Petersham, Mass., wrote some months ago to the head of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, expressing concern for the safety of the American food supply and citing the disturbing facts about food adulteration brought out in the book, *The Poisons in Your Food*, by William Longgood (reviewed in the May 1960 CONSUMER BULLETIN). Mr. Bagley referred to the "spotty record" of the government and of the Food and Drug Administration in regard to the risks to consumers' health through manufacturers' use of chemical additives and the presence of various contaminating poisonous substances in our food. Mr. Bagley asserted, quite correctly, that instead of fighting to close the door firmly against any and all foreign substances in our diet, governmental agencies have participated in a policy which "permits known poisons and carcinogens, plus items of questionable safety, to enter our food supply."

Mr. Bagley's letter to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare observed that the Food and Drug Administration seems to feel that it has a dual responsibility—to the public and to the food industry—whereas the obligation of the Food and Drug Administration should be to serve only the public welfare and "to take the lead in stemming and turning back the tide of chemicals in

our foods and the deterioration of nutritive values in our foods."

The letter went on to say that foods should contain "no adulterants of any kind where there is the slightest question of absolute safety for human consumption. . . . Moreover, why should the government collaborate in a use of chemicals which makes a product appear better or more nutritious than it really is? That is a fraud!"

Mr. Flemming did not himself reply to Mr. Bagley's letter. The answer came from a member of the Food and Drug Administration's public relations staff. This reply ascribed to Mr. Longgood the conclusion that "the American public is being poisoned on a wholesale basis" and described that conclusion as being "false and irresponsible." The writer cited a review of the Longgood book by a biochemist, Dr. William T. Darby of Vanderbilt University, as evidence that the Food and Drug Administration need give no weight to Mr. Longgood's criticism of the state of our food supply; actually Mr. Longgood's book was a well written, well documented study. Dr. Darby had disposed of the Longgood thesis in his review in *Science* by charging the author with sensationalism, muckraking, with being a cultist favoring natural over synthetic foods, and with basing many of his conclusions on information

derived from a variety of dietary quacks and cultists. Dr. Darby urged that people should pay heed only to the pronouncements based on source material from *official* bodies, U.S. governmental and United Nations agencies. (It just happens that Dr. Darby is an officer of one of the official agencies.)

A most important fact is that the toxic qualities of a number of now-condemned food dyes and other additives were not discovered by governmental agencies, but by private investigators more concerned with the public's welfare and loyal to their professional obligations than many a federal or state official chemist or toxicologist.

In a second letter to the Secretary, Mr. Bagley noted the suspicion that attaches to public relations services in and out of government and expressed his disappointment at getting the type of reply such an agency would prepare. He continued, "You *must* know that the extensive and growing use of additives and contaminants in food has aroused deep concern in many quarters and certainly raises many disturbing questions and problems. If you do not know this and are

not deeply concerned about it every day of your life, then I suggest that you resign your office (with Mr. Lerrick [head of the Food and Drug Administration] to follow suit, if he is also so benighted). If you had simply written and said that you appreciated my concern, that you too were aware of the serious questions and problems raised by Mr. Longgood, and that you were earnestly striving toward a better situation, you would have earned my respect. Instead I feel that I have been told that we live in the best of all possible worlds and that only a few 'cultists' and odd-balls fail to realize this.

... To state Mr. Longgood's thesis correctly, contrary to your public relations division's falsification of it, I think it is as follows: Large numbers of chemicals are being used in growing and processing foods. Many of these chemicals are known to be poisonous or carcinogenic. Many have not been properly tested. Therefore it is reasonable to fear that subtle and serious damage is being done to the health of the American people. Mr. Longgood also states that chemicals are being used to grow food of greater abundance but poorer



Almost anyone would assume that all of the food articles shown in the above picture would be unadulterated and safe to consume without question. Nevertheless, some carrots have been found to contain a harmful breakdown-product of DDT, though the carrots themselves had never been treated with DDT. (They had been grown in a cotton field that in previous years had been heavily dusted with DDT.) Wheat and other grains have often been seized because of contamination by certain poisons (usually fungicides). In one instance a huge quantity (nearly 900,000 pounds) of mercury-treated seed wheat was seized on its way to the flour mill because of this very dangerous contamination.

The death of a child and illness of other members of a family from poisoned flounder fillet caused a 16-state alarm about 2 years ago. To make the fish resist spoilage, a Philadelphia fish merchant had treated it with a poisonous preservative, sodium nitrite, which is not allowed to be used in the fish trade in this way, though it is traditionally employed, in smaller quantities, for "curing" ham, bacon, luncheon meats, frankfurters and other sausages. Some years ago a number of persons were poisoned by excess nitrite in wieners, and one of the poisoned persons, a child, died.

The use of an extremely poisonous weed killer on cranberries created an incident which resulted in wide public alarm about a year ago. Three and one-half million pounds of cranberries were involved.

Fortunately consumers of maraschino cherries often recognize their artificial character and use them only in a limited way. Cherries of this type have been bleached and preserved in sulfur dioxide, which is still present in the cherries, and in addition contain another preservative, sodium benzoate. Such cherries are artificially colored and artificially flavored, and have only a distant relationship to the cherries from which they were made.

quality (would you deny this?) and it is reasonable to fear that our food supply is not as nutritious as it should be. Now there is certainly nothing rabid, unreasonable, or irresponsible about all this. On the contrary, Mr. Longgood's deep concern is to be applauded. It is the kind of concern we should all have. There are undeniable and damning facts throughout the book. Dr. Darby, who seems to have been picked to represent the government's official view, addressed himself to none of the problems, but simply attacked Longgood as a cultist. Is it any wonder that my faith in you and in the FDA is less than it was and that I feel a sense of frustration in writing to you.... We *are* using people as guinea pigs. We do not know that safe tolerances really are safe (after all, some of them have been revised). The FDA cannot detect all food shipments that violate safe tolerance limits. Farmers cannot all be expected to read and follow directions in using pesticides. The whole 'safe tolerance' concept in foods is very questionable, first because safe tolerances are really only informed guesses, and second because it is just too hard to control the situation so that no one gets an unsafe dose. We do not know the subtle, long-range effect of many additives and contaminants. Little is known about the cumulative effect of *all* these chemicals ingested day after day, year after year (practically all studies, I believe, relate to a single chemical in isolation). The FDA has made serious errors before, may it not be making some now?

"Instead of being in the tradition of 'blood-thirsty pen-pushing,' to use Dr. Darby's emotion-

ally charged phrase of name calling, it may well be that Longgood is in the tradition of crusaders through the ages who have fought for more intelligent policies which have eventually come to replace established policies. Certainly we have no right to scoff and sneer at people who seek to apply their intelligence toward safeguarding their welfare just because what they say threatens to arouse people from a false sense of security and suggests that government and industrial policy is lacking...."

The next letter to Mr. Bagley came from an assistant to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, who reiterated the official disregard for the Longgood thesis, and who in effect said that the Food and Drug Administration was doing a good job, and was possessed of "knowledge and experience." Mr. Bagley thereupon wrote again to Secretary Flemming:

"My correspondence with you (or rather with your subordinates) has been most disheartening. Here we have a vast organization, facing tremendously complex and controversial problems, unwilling to admit that it is anything less than completely satisfied with the way things are and unwilling to admit that an entire book devoted to problems (or what others see as problems) of this department has in it one shred of merit. . . . Perhaps this apparent impregnable smugness is why we of the public too often have to leave it to other, non-official sources to alert us to dangers.

"Fortunately we seem still to live in a society where every citizen has a right and a duty to criticize. I am surprised that you people seem so



Familiar scenes in many parts of the country. Some of the spraying and dusting materials are exceedingly poisonous, highly dangerous to those who must handle them in the field; there have been many deaths and serious injuries from this cause.



hurt about it—as though you felt this threatened your security."

\* \* \*

A recent report of the Food and Drug Administration clearly indicates the limitations of the value of its work to the public. Their report for 1959, recently available, notes: "Samples of beans, peas, and fish from Peru have been analyzed for radioactivity during 1959. The results will serve as a guide for greater selectivity in import sampling." That is all it says about the produce from Peru! Why were the results not made available to the public, for its information regarding the safety of beans, peas, and fish from Peru and such inferences as might reasonably be drawn on radioactivity of food products from other sources, foreign and American?

In another paragraph of the F.D.A. report the following appears: "Increased consumer protection from excessive pesticide residues on fruits and vegetables was provided by the planned collection and analysis of over 2,000 samples of crops from all commercially important growing areas and constant surveillance of the pesticide spray practices of growers." Why should not the public be told the *specific findings* on the 2,000 samples? That is information far more worthy of publication than most of the large and general tracts that come from the Government Printing Office.

The next paragraph of the same annual report mentions the finding of excessive DDT residues on packages of spinach being frozen for *nationwide distribution*, but omits the name of the place and the packing plant and fails to state *how much* DDT residue.

Another paragraph mentions a carload of lettuce which carried "*parathion and fluorine* in excess of the tolerance," but failed to state where this incident occurred and *how much* parathion and fluorine were present and how exceedingly toxic these chemicals are.

These instances do show clearly that there is a serious problem of exactly the kind exposed by Mr. Longgood and that farmers and others who handle these extremely poisonous materials do not, in the diffuse and unsupervised nature of farming operations, take all needed precautions against contamination of food materials. In one spraying or dusting operation in California, a state government department reports that of 10 safety precautions listed by the manufacturer for safe handling of his product *not one* was being applied, and operators were in some cases without protective clothing and were following "sloppy and hazardous procedures." There are over a thousand cases a year in one state of injury or "occupational disease" of workmen through highly toxic agricultural chemicals. These errors due to

#### THE NEIGHBORS

By GEORGE CLARK



"Certified coloring, potassium nitrate, monosodium glutamate—gosh, isn't that what we had last night?"

Cartoon reproduced by permission of Chicago Tribune-New York Daily News Syndicate

ignorance, misunderstanding, and carelessness may, of course, result in injuries to an unknown number of thousands of unsuspecting consumers who handle or ingest the treated produce.

The Administration's report of the year's activities cites case after case of harmful and dangerous food materials without giving names, places, or other details, all on the assumption that in spite of these instances involving as much as 25,000 pounds of one food product, and 465 tons of grain, we should simply place our trust in the government's food control operations as completely safeguarding consumer interests. We are supposed to have this confidence in the government's food control operations, even when the government does not report its findings to the public (except in large, vague, and general terms of no specific use to anyone).

The Administration's report shows that when they do detect and act on a problem, it is often after the situation has gotten to be extremely dangerous or has brought about a fatality, as in the case of a death from sodium nitrite used to adulterate flounder fillets in the Philadelphia area a year or two ago. In this case, state and federal controls were both obviously lax, and it was sheer good luck that only one person died of those who were taken ill from the poison. Other seizures of

fish products containing sodium nitrite were subsequently made, but we were not told any details except that they were "mainly imported."

A recent incident involved the highly toxic food dye called Red No. 1, which had long been used with government approval in maraschino cherries, ice cream, frankfurters, and certain other types of sausages.

Of 250 rats being fed this toxic dye, 116 died, while none of the 27 animals on control diets died (diets not containing the dye). Gross liver damage showed up in animals fed the dye. Some of the feeding studies have shown malignant tumors in rats, and work not yet completed on this dangerous dye may ultimately show after 15 months or so of further testing that the dye is a cancer-causing agent or carcinogen (other food dyes have been!).

The prior official acceptance of this harmful dye is but one of a substantial number of errors made in previous judgments of the Food and Drug Administration—errors that may have caused most serious harm to human health, or brought death to citizens, whom the government has not

even warned of the undesirability of consuming foods containing coal-tar dyes. (Who needs jelly, candies, and cakes colored with strictly synthetic coal-tar-derived dye materials, anyway?)

There are scores of ways in which the activities of the Food and Drug Administration should be corrected and strengthened to make the agency a more effective guardian of the public welfare.

The difficulties and dangers from a consumer's standpoint would at least be mitigated to some extent if the Food and Drug officials would adopt a policy of issuing complete, timely, clear, and straightforward public statements on what they find, and if they would readily grant the possibility of error, and the importance of continuous and intensive research. The list of chemical substances that may contaminate foods or be added to them continues to grow rapidly; two to three thousand are now employed. The most vital need is to move speedily toward drastically shrinking this huge number, so that the problem of determining the safety of additives and controlling their use may be reduced to proportions which researchers may hope to deal with successfully.



Almost all commercial candies contain chemical additives. The candy trade expects its products to have a high degree of "durability" and resistance to handling, light, heat, and changing temperatures. Two kinds of chocolate are present in the "Bridge Mix" above. Both contain an emulsifier and artificial flavor additives. Other additives: gum arabic, natural and artificial flavors, resinous glaze, artificial color.

The chocolate covered cherries include preservatives and artificial flavoring and coloring. The milk chocolate raisins include, along with food materials, emulsifier, artificial flavor, and a resinous glaze. Additives in the assorted chocolates were, in part, emulsifier, artificial flavor, and "certified" colors.

The cellophane bag of candies contains in addition to food ingredients: sorbitol, gum arabic, carnauba [sic] wax [also used in shoe, furniture, and other polishes], cream of tartar, emulsifier, artificial color. The almond chocolate candies contain as additives: emulsifier, gum arabic, and artificial flavors, artificial colors. Candies in general are undesirable as foods, especially for children, and the wise consumer will certainly want to consider closely the labels of candies that contain a variety of chemical additives.

## Appliances—their care, repair, and upkeep

JUST when a given appliance will break down and require a new part or merely an adjustment, no one can predict with any degree of reliability. We do know that some makes and models of appliances normally perform well for several years without a breakdown, while others of the same design, built in the same factory, will suffer a series of failures over a relatively short period of time. Thus, even the best of modern complex appliances will be pretty sure to require some repair work before it has served long enough to be disposed of, or turned in on a new model. For this reason it is important to check before buying, to be sure that local service for the particular brand being purchased is available and reliable and not unduly expensive. Even a minor breakdown can be annoying, inconvenient, and costly if the appliance is not repaired promptly and properly by a qualified workman.

### You can help delay breakdown

Actually, a high percentage of breakdowns is caused or brought about prematurely by the manner in which the appliance is used and cared for—or more correctly, not cared for. Proper use and maintenance not only can postpone repairs for a long time, if the appliance was a good one to start with, but can extend the life of the appliance two or more years (and that's worth doing on any appliance with a normal life of 5 to 10 years). To some extent owners create problems for themselves by failing to read and follow instructions that relate to the machine purchased.

Perhaps the most abused appliances in the home are the clothes washing machines and washer-dryer combinations. (Likewise, they are the most expensive to keep in operating condition.) Washing machines and washer-dryer combinations necessarily have a limited life; they can perform just so much work, or wash so many pounds of clothes during their working life. However, if the housewife overloads her machine regularly—let us say she washes 12-pound loads in



**FIX IT YOURSELF.** A "leaky" hose washer can be replaced by the householder in a few minutes for the price of the hose washer—a fraction of a penny.

stead of 8-pound loads—the increased wear on the mechanism will cause premature breakdown of the machine and either call for costly repairs, or replacement of the machine with a new one long before normally necessary. Incidentally, avoiding overloading not only helps extend the useful life of a washing machine but also yields cleaner clothes. A dryer, too, will do a better job if not overloaded.

Another appliance that is frequently mistreated is the electric range. Many people make the mistake of turning a top burner to its high setting and then fail to place a pan containing water or moist food on the burner to dissipate the heat. This allows the burner to heat up to a bright, glowing red and contributes to premature failure. Some use too small a pan on a large burner so that the outer coils are not covered by the pan. This practice, too, will surely shorten the life of those surface burners.

### Appliance repairs are expensive nowadays

On the whole, today's appliances are better constructed than they were even a few years back, but they are more complex, so that while the number of breakdowns are fewer, the *average* homeowner's problem is more serious, more time-consuming, and much more expensive.

Another reason for higher charges is brought about by the so-called service charge. Before the serviceman even touches the faulty appliance, you owe him money, usually \$5 or more, for his travel time. To this is added his fee for labor, based on the time he spends to make the repair, plus the cost of the parts he uses in making the repair, plus a margin for profit and overhead. Thus, a simple job, such as tightening a loose belt on a



**SAVE THE SERVICE CHARGE.** Don't call the serviceman before checking the power cord plug—it may not be making good contact.

washing machine, could, and frequently does, cost from \$10 to \$15. A major breakdown, such as the failure of the transmission on a washer, rarely brings a bill for less than \$50; more often the charge will be \$75 or more. At that, you can consider yourself fortunate if the failure does not occur again, especially if the machine is abused, or overloaded.

How costly service and repair charges will be depends on the policy of the serviceman and repair shop, and probably to some extent on what the public will bear. The fees charged are usually governed by the average number of calls a serviceman makes each day, which when multiplied by 5 or 6 should, after deductions of expenses and overhead, net him a good weekly wage. Normally, a serviceman putting in a good day's work can make about 8 service calls in rural areas and up to 12 or even more in the more heavily populated metropolitan areas. It seems, however, that while servicemen in rural areas do fulfill their quota of 8 calls a day, those in the metropolitan areas rarely make their 12 and often don't make as many as 8. Thus, as an inevitable result, the small number of calls means higher charges to all those receiving service.

#### **You may be able to save yourself money**

When an appliance quits working, don't call the serviceman until you have made certain that there is nothing you can do easily and simply to correct the trouble. Very often the cause can be located and corrected by the man of the house, and a few minutes of his time may save you several dollars. Odd as it may seem, servicemen when called to repair a washing machine, or dryer, or refrigerator that has "quit working" sometimes

find that the appliance power cord has been accidentally pulled out of the electric receptacle, or that a fuse has blown, or a wire connection has been broken in the power cord at the plug.

There are a number of things one can check for before calling the serviceman, and a brief review of the instruction book may often save several dollars that would otherwise be charged.

A good rule: Know your appliance before you call the serviceman; if *he* supplies the instructions, it will cost you money. A few points are listed here by way of example.

- When a washing machine or dryer stops working, a loose belt may be the cause. Check belts for slippage and take up the slack but make sure the belt is supposed to be tight, for on some machines certain belts must be loose at times during the cycle. Be sure the power plug is out of its socket or receptacle when you are doing any checking or adjusting of belt tightness.

- If water appears on the floor around a washing machine, check the water hoses to see whether one or both hoses may be leaking. If the leak occurs at the faucet or valve connection, replacing the rubber washer or simply tightening the connections will usually eliminate the trouble. If the hose has developed a split and is leaking, replace the hose with a new one; probably no serviceman will be needed. Remember, if one is called and makes the repairs, he will charge you not only for the parts, but also for labor, plus a service charge.

- Another frequent cause for calling a serviceman is the failure to turn on the tap or faucet that feeds hot or cold water to the washing machine, washer-dryer combination, or dishwasher.

- After each load of laundry is washed, wipe up the water around the lid hinges, clean the washing machine filter, and likewise the lint filter on the clothes dryer. At least once a year remove accumulations of lint from other parts inside the dryer, and from the vent piping, on vent-type dryers.

- The replacement of a light bulb inside an appliance is a job that can be done by most any appliance owner, but he should pull the power plug while working on the bulb to avoid risk of electric shock.

- If the oven heating element on an electric range will not go on, check to be sure that the control switch of the automatic timer is properly turned for manual operation and not for automatic operation. Failure to turn the right knob to manual is a common cause of complaints about ovens which cannot be turned on for the next baking job.

- Be familiar with parts that require regular oiling or greasing, such as motor bearings and oscillator mechanisms on fans, circulators on hot-water



**AVOID PREMATURE FAILURE.** The regular practice of using a small pan on a large electric burner will hasten the time when the expensive burner needs to be replaced.

heating boilers, and don't oil too often, or use too much oil. Excessive use of oil can do as much harm as too little oiling.

• The bags on upright or tank-type vacuum cleaners should be cleaned or replaced, as the case may be, fairly frequently, to assure peak performance and minimum repairs.

• Don't spin control dials such as those on washing machines or the channel selector on television sets—turn these step by step, slowly, to avoid damaging the associated mechanisms. And do not allow the on-off switch on a radio or TV set to be turned from on to off to on, etc., in rapid succession. Such treatment subjects components of the set to excessive electrical stresses that will shorten their life.

\* \* \*

The problem is quite different with a television set. When it does not operate, the non-expert should content himself with checking that the power cord is plugged in and that the antenna leads are properly connected to the set or booster. There are very high voltages in television sets; they are therefore inherently dangerous to anyone lacking the proper knowledge and experience. TV repairing is no job for the amateur, or the home handyman.

Following even the few practices we have outlined can save you a substantial amount annually, not only in keeping the serviceman from your door but in longer lasting equipment—and give you better performance during its working life.

#### **What to do for major failures**

If after you have considered and dealt with all possible causes for the malfunctioning of the appliance, it still does not work properly, then call the serviceman. When calling him, give him as much information as you can about the behavior of

*the appliance* and perhaps how the appliance acted just prior to the failure. From your report he very possibly can get some clues as to what the trouble may be, and be enabled to bring needed parts or tools. Then after he has examined the appliance and reported to you what the trouble is, find out what his efforts will cost you—and be sure to have him itemize all the charges. When the bill is submitted to you, be sure all essential information appears on the bill—itemized. If there is no recurrence of the trouble and you are fully satisfied—good.

If, however, the work is not satisfactory and the appliance is still not working properly after the serviceman has been paid, or if the trouble recurs, or if a series of breakdowns occur, one after the other, then write to the manufacturer. Explain your problem in detail; list in your letter the type of repairs, charges for these repairs, and any other information that supports your dissatisfaction with the appliance or the serviceman. Of course, this means you must have obtained itemized bills for all work done and have kept a record by dates of telephone calls, conversations, etc., with the dealer or serviceman, including any failure to keep promises as to charges, or time at which the repair would be completed.

Having written to the manufacturer, you can now only await his action. Chances are you will hear from the manufacturer or one of his district representatives and the matter will be looked into.

One final word of advice—a sarcastic or threatening letter will get your gripe off your chest, but it is not likely to get things fixed. Your letter, although addressed to a company, will be read by people. Those executives and service personnel are more likely to handle your complaint to your satisfaction if the letter is courteous, careful in statement, and informative.

## **Studebaker Lark 6**

*(The beginning of this article is on page 10)*

#### **Road tests of accelerating ability**

Acceleration times were:

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| 0 to 60 m.p.h.  | 14.0 sec. |
| 20 to 50 m.p.h. | 10.0 sec. |
| 40 to 60 m.p.h. | 8.5 sec.  |

All were more than adequate and considerably better than last year's 90 horsepower Lark.

#### **Gasoline mileage under test conditions**

At a constant speed of 50 miles per hour, the car gave 24.5 miles per gallon, which was about 25

percent better than the *Rambler 6*. In around-town driving, miles per gallon ranged from 20 to 23.

#### **Brakes**

The service brakes were satisfactory in operation and action. The parking brakes are operated by a ratchet hand lever located to the right of the steering column; this arrangement is judged preferable, for use in an emergency, to the step-on pedal-operated type with hand release, but additional holding power would have been desirable.

## ● OFF THE EDITOR'S CHEST

### New Jersey's New Consumer Frauds Bureau

CONSUMERS, who have suffered in silence or complained only to their friends when they have been victimized by false advertising, high-pressure sales tactics, or fraudulent time-payment contracts, are demanding help from their State governments—and getting it. One of the most recent additions to the states which provide protection to consumers in certain fields is New Jersey, which now has a Consumer Frauds Bureau, at 1100 Raymond Blvd., Newark, headed by Deputy Attorney General, Frank A. Verga.

This Bureau was authorized by a "package" of legislation which included three laws. One law deals with consumer fraud, its prevention, and control of commercial practices that defraud consumers. It sets up penalties for violations. The other two regulate the financing of purchases of consumer goods and aim at curbing abuses in the home improvement field by providing for the licensing of finance companies.

The Supreme Court of the State of New Jersey has given the Consumer Frauds Bureau an assist by its decision in the case of *New Jersey Mortgage and Investment Co. v. Dorsey*, in a case decided November 21, 1960. The court held in that case "that the defense of fraud in the factum is available against any holder of a negotiable instrument provided the maker was not negligent in failing to ascertain the actual character of the instrument."

The State Attorney General has power to subpoena persons and records involved in transactions in which fraud is alleged, and this provides sound basis for legal proceedings, particularly useful in enabling the State to take action in cases of installment contracts in which the nature of the services or the commodity has been misrepresented. In one case, involving a frozen-food plan and freezer, the seller was to provide an 18-cubic-foot freezer, but he delivered only a 14-cubic-foot freezer to the customer. This in itself was found to constitute fraud, and Mr. Verga's office was able to have the freezer returned and the contract cancelled.

One of the biggest problems involved in helping consumers is to educate them NEVER, NEVER to sign their names to any document until they have read it carefully and understood completely just what they are committing themselves to pay for, in what amounts, and for how long a period. One fraud that Mr. Verga frequently encounters involves the confusion of a note with a credit report. The consumer will be led to believe that he

is simply signing his name to validate a credit report, when actually he is putting his signature on a note obligating him to make a stated number of payments in specified amounts. After he signs the note, it is sent to the bank for discounting, and the seller is then completely out of the picture with no responsibility whatever for the performance of an appliance or automobile, or the completion of installation or service. The customer is stuck with an unsatisfactory or overpriced product and a note to be paid off at the bank—unless he knows of the Consumer Frauds Bureau, reports his problem, and obtains the Bureau's assistance. The bank has no concern with the correctness or justice of the amounts the purchaser has agreed to pay or the quality or performance of the product purchased; it has simply bought a promise to pay, and one may expect it will proceed to collect by all legal means available to it. This, however, was true prior to the decision of the *New Jersey Mortgage and Investment Co. v. Dorsey*. Today, at least in New Jersey, a consumer can use the defense of fraud if it is available to him as hereinabove stated.

In the first six months of operation, Mr. Verga estimated that he had secured the refund of more than eleven thousand dollars to consumers who had reported and substantiated their charges of fraud before his Bureau. It was his observation that very often just writing an appropriate letter was effective in obtaining redress. In other cases it was necessary to have conferences with the seller and the buyer in order to iron out the problems involved.

The New Jersey Consumer Frauds Bureau is an interesting experiment that other states may well copy. It gives consumers legal help and advice, but at the same time requires a certain degree of reliance on their own efforts in presenting their case in order to obtain adjustment of their difficulties.

There is, sometimes, a tendency on the part of those who talk about "consumers' welfare" to treat consumers as if they were clients of social workers, objects of charity, unable to take any intelligent or effective action for themselves. The New Jersey legislation avoids this approach, and provides assistance that can be intelligently used. It is supported by responsible businessmen who have a tangible stake in cleaning up the irresponsible activities of fringe operators, high-pressure sales outfits, itinerant sharpers, and the so-called "suede shoe boys."

As many of our subscribers have discovered, a well-formulated letter of complaint to a responsible official (with a carbon copy to Consumers' Research) is often quite effective in remedying the cause of their discontent. For New Jerseyans, a similar technique, with a copy mailed to the New Jersey Consumer Frauds Bureau, 1100 Raymond Boulevard, Newark, N.J., will often be even more

persuasive, because of the State's subpoena and penalty powers. Consumers in other states may wish to check with their own state legislators to see whether those officials have considered enactment of similar laws to protect ultimate consumers. The movement exemplified in New Jersey will no doubt spread to other states as its effectiveness comes to be understood and appreciated.

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\*Entries marked (\*) are longer or more comprehensive items.

NOTE: Back issues of CONSUMER BULLETIN (1960-1961) are available at 40 cents each; 1959 and earlier issues, 50 cents each. Recent reprints are listed on p. 23 of Jan. '61 issue.

### Emendation to Consumer Bulletin

#### Women's half slips

October '60 Bulletin

The Commodity Standards Division of the U. S. Department of Commerce suggests that half slips are customarily made for the younger figures. Thus the misses' standard sizes may be of more interest than the women's standard sizes used by Consumers' Research for comparison in the table on page 7.

#### Measurements given in Commercial Standard

| Women's size 34, inches    | Misses' size, medium |     | Misses' size, large |     |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
|                            | 12                   | 14  | 16                  | 18  |
| Waist inches               | 29                   | 25½ | 27                  | 28½ |
| Hips (7 inches below band) | 38                   | 36  | 38                  | 40  |

Both the Bureau and some manufacturers have pointed out to Consumers' Research that the waist measurement of half slips is not too impor-

tant (because of the elasticity of the waist), but that the waist should, of course, be smaller than the hip measurement.

Makers of some knitted fabrics suggest that the total shrinkage of the slip fabrics as reported does not take into account the characteristic of knit fabrics in recovering dimensions when subjected to a slight tension. For this reason, the A.S.A. Standard calls for the measurements after washing being made with the fabric "restored" by a one-pound tension in two directions at right angles.

When measurements were made in this way, the fabric of one *Sliperfection* slip lost 7.8 percent in length and gained 10.0 percent in width when the garment was laundered at 140°F; another sample lost 5.5 percent in width and gained 10.5 percent in length when laundered at 105°F. These two samples of the fabric showed a dimensional change in excess of the requirements of the A.S.A. Standard, as did samples hand pressed flat, and measured without tension. The rating of the garment is not changed.

## Phonograph Records

BY WALTER F. GRUENINGER

Please Note: Stereo records are indicated by the symbol **⑤**. Ratings (AA, A, B, etc.) apply first to the quality of interpretation, second to the fidelity of the recording. Most performances are available on both stereo and regular LP records.

**⑤Bach, J. C.: Sinfonia in B Flat Major and Sinfonia in D Major & Handel: Water Music Suite.** Concertgebouw Orchestra under van Beinum. Epic BC 1112. \$5.98. Satisfying, masculine, the *Water Music* is a joy to hear repeatedly. The Bach *Sinfonias*, composed by the youngest son of Johann Sebastian hint at greater, deeper things to come, but in their genre, excellent. All conducted impressively by the late van Beinum, one of the foremost conductors of our time. Warm, rich recording. **AA AA**

**⑤Dvorák: Cello Concerto.** Piatigorsky (cello) with the Boston Symphony under Munch. RCA Victor LSC 2490. \$5.98. An engaging concerto, one of the most popular for cello and orchestra. Piatigorsky's playing doesn't reach the heights of the great Casals, but whose does? He plays as well as his stereo competition, and he is superbly backed up by the Bostonians and the recording engineers. **AA AA**

**⑤Lalo: Symphonie Espagnole** (4 movements). Francescatti (violin) with the New York Philharmonic under Mitropoulos & **Walton: Concerto.** Francescatti (violin) with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Ormandy. Columbia MS 6201. \$5.98. Extraordinary violin playing, despite an occasional off pitch note. The colorful Lalo benefits particularly by Francescatti's broad, singing, romantic playing. The sparkling, difficult Walton, dating from 1939 and almost as romantic as the Lalo, is thrice welcome because it is the only available recording, according to the Schwann catalog. Big hall sound. Szeryng on the new RCA Victor LSC 2456 performs the full 5 movements of the Lalo. Though his playing sounds precise, clean, it lacks the impact of Francescatti's. **AA AA**

**⑤Mascagni: Cavalleria Rusticana.** Simonato, Del Monaco, MacNeil under Serafin (3 sides) and *Six Italian Songs*. Del Monaco (tenor) (1 side). London OSA 1213. \$11.96. A short thriller that packs the opera houses of the world. Del Monaco as Turridi certainly strains in the higher passages. He socks out page after page of music in less than the most musical manner, though his earthy role of Turridi can almost take it. Simonato as Santuzza strikes me as best of the cast. She sings with enthusiasm and artistry. But a dramatic soprano, rather than a mezzo, would provide the contrast specified by the composer. In a less important role, MacNeil as Alfio certainly approaches Simonato's accomplishments. The other members of the cast and the direction pass muster. The fourth side goes to Del Monaco for Italian songs which he sings as loudly as possible. Pleasing reproduction. **AA AA**

**⑤Mozart: Concerto No. 24 and Rondo in A Minor.** Rubinstein (piano) with Orchestra under Krips. RCA Victor LSC 2461. \$5.98. Turbulent, tragic, masterful music. Rubinstein plays it dramatically, with commendable dexterity and fluency. Sound orchestral work in the concerto. The *Rondo* was written for piano only and is so played. Transparent recording. **AA AA**

**⑤Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro.** Wächter, Schwarzkopf, Cossotto, Taddei, Moffo, etc., under Giulini. 8 sides, Angel 3608D/L. \$19.92. An operatic masterpiece performed and recorded quite satisfactorily. On the plus side, more or less, is the singing of Wächter as the Count, Taddei as Figaro though he pushes his tones too hard, Schwarzkopf as the Countess, Cossotto as Cherubino. Less satisfactory is the singing of Moffo as Susanna. In general, first-class direction. The engineers have employed some stereo effects. Yet, cannot everyone imagine a more nearly perfect performance? Among available stereo recordings, this almost ties the best—London OSA 1402. **AA AA**

**⑤Mozart: Concertos Nos. 22 and 23.** Casadesus (piano) with the Columbia Symphony under Szell. Columbia MS 6194. \$5.98. Sparkling concertos with notable themes, easy to whistle. Virtuosity and musicianship are obvious in Casadesus' playing. The orchestra (it sounds like a

small one) plays well and clearly under the strict beat of Szell. Satisfactory recording. **AA AA**

**⑤Prokofieff: Concerto No. 3 & MacDowell: Concerto No. 2.** Van Cliburn (piano) with the Chicago Symphony under Hendl. RCA Victor LSC 2507. \$5.98. A work in the classic vein and one unquestionably romantic. Van Cliburn handles both effectively, with plenty of technique to spare and a clear understanding of style. Especially good recording. **AA AA**

**⑤Puccini: Madame Butterfly.** De los Angeles, Bjoerling, etc., under Santini. 6 sides, Capitol SGCR 7232. \$17.94. Buy this recording not merely for the *Butterfly* of de los Angeles but, despite a few off-pitch notes, the vibrant Pinkerton of Bjoerling in his last major recording. Not that the soprano is poor! While de los Angeles faces strong competition in the rich-voiced Tebaldi on London, Bjoerling surpasses all recent Pinkertons. The other roles in this recording stand up well, the fidelity is excellent with some use of the stereo medium, and the flexible direction of Santini is generally admirable, though there are moments when a sense of urgency would be welcome. Overall—very likely the best stereo *Butterfly*. **A AA**

**⑤Strauss: Die Fledermaus.** Gueden, Resnik, Zampieri, Kunz, etc., under von Karajan. 6 sides, London OSA 1319. \$17.94. No question but this is the *Fledermaus* to own! Johann Strauss' masterpiece has been superbly directed and recorded, and well sung. Strauss' name, of all things, doesn't appear on the front cover of the album though 19 artists are listed! Erika Köth as Adele fails, I think, to convey the character fully; Regina Resnik as Prince Orlofsky seems so concerned with portraying aristocracy that she neglects enunciation, particularly when introducing the 11 guest artists who appear in the gala sequence. As a consequence, the names of the performing artists, each of whom does a number not associated with the Strauss score, are too rarely heard. You have to turn to page 3 of the accompanying booklet to discover you are hearing Tebaldi, Corena, Nilsson, Del Monaco, Bjoerling, for example—some of whom are more successful than others. But on the whole, it's a stunning production with the principals such as Gueden, Zampieri, and Kunz in the hard-to-beat class. \* \* \*

**Encores, Vol. III.** George Wright (organ). HiFi Record R 711. \$4.95. Recorded on the massive Wurlitzer organ first installed in the Paradise Theater, Chicago. The pickup is good with particularly strong bass. In the old theater style Wright emotes through "Granada," "Laura," "Passion Flower," "Bahia," and others. **A AA**

**Ferrante and Teicher Play Themes from Broadway Shows** (piano duo). ABC Paramount ABC 336. \$3.98. The sounds you hear in off-Broadway show houses where full orchestras seldom play. In the hands of these experts two pianos plus percussion and electric guitar sparkle, excite. They play tunes from "The Sound of Music," "The Music Man," "Gypsy," "Bye Bye Birdie," and others. And they add two originals. The pianos are not "enhanced" with gadgetry as in some of this team's early efforts. And that's good, too. Satisfactory sound. **A AA**

**The Sound of Latin Brass.** Tarragano and His Orchestra. Medallion ML 7511. \$4.98. Superb recording of loud, brassy Latin numbers such as "Besame Mucho," "Carioca," "Fascination," "Baia," "Mambo Jambo." **AA AA**

**⑤The Virtuoso Oboe, Vol. 2.** Lardrot (oboe) with Vienna State Opera Orchestra under Prohaska. Vanguard VSD 2074. \$5.95. Four concerti and one quartet by Mozart, Handel, and Albinoni afford a delightful hour of listening. Soloist Lardrot displays virtuosity of the highest order—finely shaped, lyrical, musically performance throughout. Able direction. Magnificent recording except in the famous Mozart Quartet in which the oboe has a big hall sound, but the other instruments sound "on top of the mike." **AA A**

## Ratings of Current Motion Pictures

THIS SECTION aims to give critical consumers a digest of opinion from a wide range of motion picture reviews, including the motion picture trade press, leading newspapers and magazines—some 17 different periodicals in all. The motion picture ratings which follow thus do not represent the judgment of a single person, but are based on an analysis of critics' reviews.

The sources of the reviews are:

*Boxoffice, Cue, Daily News (N.Y.), The Exhibitor, Films in Review, Joint Estimates of Current Motion Pictures, Motion Picture Herald, National Legion of Decency, New York Herald Tribune, New York Times, The New Yorker, Parents' Magazine, Release of the D. A. R. Review Committee, Reviews and Ratings by the Protestant Motion Picture Council, The Tablet, Time, Variety (weekly).*

The figures preceding the title of the picture indicate the number of critics whose judgments of its entertainment values warrant a rating of A (recommended), B (intermediate), or C (not recommended).

Audience suitability is indicated by "A" for adults, "Y" for young people (14-18), and "C" for children, at the end of each line.

Descriptive abbreviations are as follows:

adv—adventure  
biog—biography  
c—in color (Ansco, Eastman, Technicolor, Trucolor, Warner Color, etc.)  
car—cartoon  
com—comedy  
cri—crime and capture of criminals  
doc—documentary  
dr—drama  
fan—fantasy  
hist—founded on historical incident  
mel—melodrama  
mus—musical  
mys—mystery  
nov—dramatization of a novel  
rom—romance  
sci—science fiction  
soc—social-problem drama  
trav—travelogue  
war—dealing with the lives of people in wartime  
wes—western

| A | B | C | A                                       | B            | C   |
|---|---|---|---|--------------|-----|
| — | 3 | — | Absent-Minded Professor, The            | com          | AYC |
| — | 3 | 1 | All in a Night's Work                   | com-c        | A   |
| — | 2 | 1 | Amazing Mr. Callaghan, The              | mys-mel      | A   |
| — | 3 | 3 | Amazing Transparent Man, The            | sci-dr       | AY  |
| — | 1 | 2 | Angel Baby                              | dr           | A   |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | Angry Silence, The (British)            | dr           | A   |
| — | 3 | 3 | Another Sky (British)                   | dr           | A   |
| — | 1 | 3 | Atlantis, the Lost Continent            | sci-c        | A   |
| — | 2 | 1 | Aunt from Chicago, The (Greek)          | com          | AY  |
| — | 2 | 1 | Back Street                             | dr-c         | A   |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | Belles and Ballets (French)             | doc-c        | AY  |
| — | 2 | 3 | Beyond the Time Barrier                 | sci-dr       | AY  |
| 1 | 9 | — | Big Deal on Madonna Street (Italian)    | cri-con      | AY  |
| — | 3 | — | Black Tights                            | mus-dr-c     | A   |
| — | 2 | 1 | Blood and Roses                         | dr-c         | A   |
| — | 6 | 2 | Blueprint for Robbery                   | cri-dr       | AY  |
| — | 3 | — | Bowl of Cherries, A                     | mus-fan      | AY  |
| — | 9 | 1 | Boy Who Stole a Million, The (Spanish)  | cri-dr       | AYC |
| — | 5 | 7 | Breath of Scandal, A                    | com-c        | A   |
| — | 2 | 3 | Breathless (French)                     | cri-dr       | A   |
| — | 3 | — | Bridge, The (German)                    | dr           | A   |
| — | 1 | 4 | Caltiki, The Immortal Monster (Mexican) | sci          | A   |
| — | 2 | 3 | Carmen Comes Home (Japanese)            | com          | A   |
| — | 2 | 6 | Carthage in Flames (Italian)            | mel-c        | A   |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | Cimarron                                | nov-c        | AY  |
| — | 6 | 6 | Cinderella                              | mus-fan-c    | AY  |
| — | 3 | 2 | Circle of Deception (British)           | war-dr       | A   |
| — | 3 | 1 | Code of Silence                         | cri-mel      | AY  |
| — | 3 | — | Cold Wind in August, A                  | mel          | A   |
| — | 1 | 6 | College Confidential                    | dr           | A   |
| — | 5 | 3 | Confess, Dr. Korda! (German)            | cri-mel      | A   |
| — | 2 | 2 | Counterfeit Coin, The (Greek)           | dr           | A   |
| — | 2 | 1 | Counterfeit Traitor, The                | war-dr-c     | AY  |
| — | 4 | 4 | Crazy for Love (French)                 | com          | A   |
| — | 4 | 5 | Crowning Experience, The                | propaganda-c | A   |
| — | 4 | 3 | Cry for Happy                           | war-com-c    | A   |
| — | 1 | 2 | Date Bait                               | soc-mel      | AY  |
| — | 3 | — | Day of the Painter                      | doc-c        | AY  |
| — | 5 | 2 | Desert Attack (British)                 | war-dr       | AYC |
| — | 4 | 8 | Desire in the Dust                      | dr           | A   |
| — | — | 3 | Devil's Commandment, The (French)       | cri-mel      | A   |
|   |   |   |   | 11           | 1   |

| A | B | C  |   | A | B  | C  |  |
|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|--|
| — | 3 | 6  | <b>Herod the Great (Italian)</b> ..... <i>mel-c A</i>                     | — | 2  | 1  | <b>Revolt of the Slaves</b> ..... <i>dr-c A</i>                      |
| — | 2 | 2  | <b>Heroes Die Young</b> ..... <i>war-mel A</i>                            | — | 2  | 1  | <b>Ritual of Love, The (French)</b> ..... <i>doc-c A</i>             |
| — | — | 3  | <b>Hideout in the Sun</b> ..... <i>cri-mel-c A</i>                        | 1 | 5  | —  | <b>Royal Ballet, The (British)</b> ..... <i>doc-c AY</i>             |
| — | 2 | 1  | <b>High School Caesar</b> ..... <i>mel AY</i>                             | — | 5  | 3  | <b>Rue de Paris (French)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                       |
| — | 2 | 1  | <b>Hippodrome</b> ..... <i>mel-c A</i>                                    | — | 2  | 1  | <b>Rules of the Game (French)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                  |
| — | 4 | 1  | <b>Home is the Hero (Irish)</b> ..... <i>dr AY</i>                        | — | 3  | —  | <b>Runaway</b> ..... <i>soc-mel AY</i>                               |
| 3 | 6 | —  | <b>Hound that Thought He Was a Raccoon, The</b> ..... <i>doc-dr-c AYC</i> | — | 3  | 3  | <b>Sanctuary</b> ..... <i>dr-c A</i>                                 |
| — | — | 3  | <b>How to Make a Monster</b> ..... <i>mel A</i>                           | — | 3  | 3  | <b>Sand Castle, The</b> ..... <i>fan AYC</i>                         |
| 1 | 8 | 4  | <b>I Aim at the Stars</b> ..... <i>biog-dr AY</i>                         | — | 1  | 3  | <b>Santa Claus (Mexican)</b> ..... <i>dr-c AYC</i>                   |
| — | 2 | 4  | <b>I Passed for White</b> ..... <i>soc-dr A</i>                           | — | —  | —  | <b>Saturday Night and Sunday Morning (British)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i> |
| — | 2 | 1  | <b>Interview, The</b> ..... <i>car AY</i>                                 | — | 6  | 2  | <b>Savage Innocents (British)</b> ..... <i>doc-dr-c A</i>            |
| — | 8 | 2  | <b>It Happened in Broad Daylight (Swiss)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>            | — | 2  | 6  | <b>Secret of the Purple Reef</b> ..... <i>mys-mel-c AY</i>           |
| — | — | 3  | <b>It Happened in Rome (Italian)</b> ..... <i>com-c A</i>                 | — | 3  | —  | <b>See Naples and Die (Italian)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                |
| — | 2 | 1  | <b>Ivan the Conqueror (Italian)</b> ..... <i>hist-dr-c AY</i>             | — | 8  | 3  | <b>Serengeti Shall Not Die</b> ..... <i>doc-c AYC</i>                |
| — | 3 | 4  | <b>Jazz Boat (British)</b> ..... <i>mus-cri-dr A</i>                      | — | 2  | 5  | <b>Seven Ways from Sundown</b> ..... <i>wes-c AYC</i>                |
| — | 5 | 5  | <b>Journey to the Lost City</b> ..... <i>adv-c AY</i>                     | — | 3  | —  | <b>Sex Kittens Go to College</b> ..... <i>com A</i>                  |
| — | 6 | 3  | <b>Key Witness</b> ..... <i>cri-dr A</i>                                  | — | 2  | 5  | <b>Shadows</b> ..... <i>soc-dr A</i>                                 |
| — | — | 4  | <b>Kill Her Gently</b> ..... <i>cri-mel A</i>                             | — | 1  | 2  | <b>Shakedown, The (British)</b> ..... <i>cri-mel A</i>               |
| — | 3 | —  | <b>Kill Me Tomorrow (British)</b> ..... <i>cri-mel AY</i>                 | — | 3  | —  | <b>She Walks by Night (German)</b> ..... <i>mel A</i>                |
| — | 2 | 2  | <b>Last Woman on Earth, The (British)</b> ..... <i>mel-c A</i>            | — | 2  | 1  | <b>Silent Call, The</b> ..... <i>dr AYC</i>                          |
| — | 4 | 2  | <b>League of Gentlemen, The (British)</b> ..... <i>cri-mel AY</i>         | — | —  | 1  | <b>Sin and Desire (French)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                     |
| — | 4 | 1  | <b>Left, Right, and Center (British)</b> ..... <i>com A</i>               | — | —  | 3  | <b>Sins of Youth (French)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                      |
| — | 2 | 8  | <b>Legions of the Nile (Italian)</b> ..... <i>mel-c A</i>                 | — | 1  | 2  | <b>Sniper's Ridge</b> ..... <i>war-dr AY</i>                         |
| — | 5 | 10 | <b>Let No Man Write My Epitaph</b> ..... <i>soc-mel A</i>                 | — | 5  | 7  | <b>Spartacus</b> ..... <i>dr-c A</i>                                 |
| — | 3 | —  | <b>Life and Loves of Mozart, The (German)</b> ..... <i>mel-c A</i>        | — | 3  | —  | <b>Splendor in the Grass</b> ..... <i>dr-c A</i>                     |
| — | 3 | —  | <b>Little Angel (Mexican)</b> ..... <i>dr-c AYC</i>                       | — | 1  | 2  | <b>Spring Affair</b> ..... <i>com A</i>                              |
| — | 3 | —  | <b>Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come</b> ..... <i>dr-c AYC</i>              | — | —  | 1  | <b>Squad Car</b> ..... <i>mel A</i>                                  |
| — | 2 | 1  | <b>Little Shop of Horrors, The (British)</b> ..... <i>cri-dr A</i>        | — | —  | —  | <b>Stop, Look, and Laugh</b> ..... <i>com AYC</i>                    |
| — | 2 | 2  | <b>Long Rope, The</b> ..... <i>wes-c AY</i>                               | — | 5  | 10 | <b>Sundowners, The</b> ..... <i>dr-c AYC</i>                         |
| — | — | 3  | <b>Louisiana Hussy</b> ..... <i>mel A</i>                                 | — | 6  | 6  | <b>Sunrise at Campobello</b> ..... <i>biog-c AY</i>                  |
| — | 4 | 5  | <b>Love Game, The (French)</b> ..... <i>com A</i>                         | — | —  | 1  | <b>Sweet Life, The (Italian)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                   |
| — | — | 3  | <b>Loves of a Greek in Paris (Greek)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                | — | 4  | 9  | <b>Swiss Family Robinson</b> ..... <i>adv-c AYC</i>                  |
| — | 1 | 3  | <b>Ma Barker's Killer Brood</b> ..... <i>cri-mel A</i>                    | — | 6  | 3  | <b>Sword of Sherwood Forest (British)</b> ..... <i>adv-c AYC</i>     |
| — | — | 3  | <b>Madame X (Greek)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                                 | — | 5  | 2  | <b>Ten Who Dared</b> ..... <i>hist-dr-c AYC</i>                      |
| — | — | 3  | <b>Magdalena (German)</b> ..... <i>soc-dr A</i>                           | — | 3  | —  | <b>Terror of the Tong, The (British)</b> ..... <i>mys-mel AY</i>     |
| — | 3 | —  | <b>Magic Boy (Japanese)</b> ..... <i>car-c AYC</i>                        | — | 7  | 1  | <b>Tess of the Storm Country</b> ..... <i>mel-c AY</i>               |
| — | 8 | 5  | <b>Magnificent Seven, The</b> ..... <i>wes-c AY</i>                       | — | 1  | 6  | <b>39 Steps, The (British)</b> ..... <i>mys-mel-c AY</i>             |
| — | 3 | —  | <b>Majestic Island</b> ..... <i>trav-c AYC</i>                            | — | —  | 1  | <b>Three Blondes in His Life</b> ..... <i>mys-mel A</i>              |
| — | 9 | 2  | <b>Make Mine Mink (British)</b> ..... <i>cri-com A</i>                    | — | 2  | 1  | <b>Three Forbidden Stories (Italian)</b> ..... <i>soc-dr A</i>       |
| — | 1 | 5  | <b>Marriage-Go-Round</b> ..... <i>com-c A</i>                             | — | 11 | 3  | <b>Three Worlds of Gulliver, The</b> ..... <i>fan-c AYC</i>          |
| — | 1 | 2  | <b>Matter of Morals, A (Swedish)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                    | — | 3  | —  | <b>Tomboy and the Champ, The</b> ..... <i>mel-c AYC</i>              |
| — | 3 | 6  | <b>Millionairess, The (British)</b> ..... <i>dr-c A</i>                   | — | 3  | 1  | <b>Tormented, The</b> ..... <i>cri-dr AY</i>                         |
| — | 5 | 4  | <b>Misfits, The</b> ..... <i>dr-c A</i>                                   | — | 2  | 2  | <b>Touch of Flesh, The</b> ..... <i>soc-dr A</i>                     |
| — | 1 | 3  | <b>Model for Murder (British)</b> ..... <i>cri-mel A</i>                  | — | 3  | —  | <b>Trapp Family, The</b> ..... <i>mus-biog-c AYC</i>                 |
| — | — | 3  | <b>Monster of Piedras Blancas, The</b> ..... <i>mel AY</i>                | — | —  | 7  | <b>Trapped in Tangier (Italian)</b> ..... <i>cri-mel-c AY</i>        |
| — | 2 | 1  | <b>Naked and the Wicked, The (Italian)</b> ..... <i>mel A</i>             | — | 2  | 1  | <b>Truth, The (French)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                         |
| — | 1 | 2  | <b>Naked Night, The (Swedish)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                       | — | 3  | 6  | <b>Tunes of Glory (British)</b> ..... <i>war-dr-c A</i>              |
| — | 3 | —  | <b>Natchez Trace</b> ..... <i>hist-mel A</i>                              | — | 3  | —  | <b>Two Faces of Dr. Jekyll, The (British)</b> ..... <i>dr-c A</i>    |
| — | 5 | 5  | <b>Night Fighters, The</b> ..... <i>war-dr AY</i>                         | — | 8  | —  | <b>Two-Way Stretch (British)</b> ..... <i>com A</i>                  |
| — | — | 3  | <b>Night of Love (French-Italian)</b> ..... <i>war-dr A</i>               | — | —  | 3  | <b>Unashamed, The</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                              |
| — | 1 | 3  | <b>No Morals (French)</b> ..... <i>cri-mel A</i>                          | — | 10 | 7  | <b>Under Ten Flags (Italian)</b> ..... <i>war-dr A</i>               |
| — | 9 | 4  | <b>North to Alaska</b> ..... <i>com-c A</i>                               | — | 1  | 3  | <b>Underworld, U.S.A.</b> ..... <i>cri-mel A</i>                     |
| — | 2 | 1  | <b>Okefenokee</b> ..... <i>mel A</i>                                      | — | 3  | 3  | <b>Unfaithfuls, The (Italian)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                  |
| — | 3 | 5  | <b>101 Dalmatians</b> ..... <i>car-c AYC</i>                              | — | 4  | 2  | <b>Upstairs and Downstairs (British)</b> ..... <i>com-c A</i>        |
| — | 2 | 6  | <b>Ostrich Has Two Eggs, The (French)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>               | — | 10 | 4  | <b>Village of the Damned (British)</b> ..... <i>sci AY</i>           |
| — | 2 | 1  | <b>Parrish</b> ..... <i>dr-c A</i>  | — | 1  | 2  | <b>Violent Summer (Italian)</b> ..... <i>war-dr A</i>                |
| — | 3 | 5  | <b>Pepe</b> ..... <i>mus-com-c AY</i>                                     | — | 2  | 4  | <b>Virgin Spring, The (Swedish)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                |
| — | 3 | 6  | <b>Picnic on the Grass (French)</b> ..... <i>dr-c A</i>                   | — | 8  | 3  | <b>Wackiest Ship in the Army, The</b> ..... <i>war-com AY</i>        |
| — | 6 | 1  | <b>Please Turn Over (British)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                       | — | 2  | 5  | <b>Walk Tall</b> ..... <i>wes-c AY</i>                               |
| — | 3 | —  | <b>Pleasure of His Company, The</b> ..... <i>com-c AY</i>                 | — | 1  | 2  | <b>Wasted Lives and the Birth of Twins</b> ..... <i>soc-doc A</i>    |
| — | 4 | 3  | <b>Plunderers, The</b> ..... <i>mel A</i>                                 | — | 4  | 5  | <b>Weddings and Babies</b> ..... <i>doc-dr A</i>                     |
| — | 3 | —  | <b>Police Dog Story, The</b> ..... <i>cri-dr AY</i>                       | — | 6  | 8  | <b>Where the Boys Are</b> ..... <i>com-c AY</i>                      |
| — | 1 | 4  | <b>Port of Desire (French)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                          | — | 2  | 2  | <b>White Warrior, The (Italian)</b> ..... <i>adv-c AY</i>            |
| — | 1 | 2  | <b>Portrait of a Sinner, A (British)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                | — | 2  | 3  | <b>Wicked Go to Hell, The (French)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>             |
| — | 1 | 2  | <b>Price of Silence, The</b> ..... <i>mys-mel A</i>                       | — | 3  | —  | <b>Wild Rapture</b> ..... <i>trav-doc AY</i>                         |
| — | 2 | 1  | <b>Prisoners of the Congo</b> ..... <i>mel-c A</i>                        | — | 5  | 2  | <b>Wizard of Bagdad, The</b> ..... <i>adv-c AYC</i>                  |
| — | 2 | 1  | <b>Rachel Cade (British)</b> ..... <i>dr-c A</i>                          | — | 6  | 1  | <b>World of Apu (India)</b> ..... <i>dr A</i>                        |
| — | — | —  |   | — | 9  | 8  | <b>World of Suzie Wong, The</b> ..... <i>dr-c A</i>                  |
| — | — | —  |   | — | 6  | 5  | <b>Young One, The</b> ..... <i>soc-dr A</i>                          |

## *The Consumers' Observation Post*

(Continued from page 4)

LONG, NARROW, POINTED SHOES are responsible for an increase in a certain type of foot ailment. The British Medical Journal reports that this ailment, which is a thickening or swelling in the tendon of the big toe called "Winkle-picker's" disease, is being observed more frequently. The irritation is particularly noticeable when one is breaking in a new pair of shoes, and can be so uncomfortable as to be disabling. The condition, when diagnosed at an early stage, is cured in simple fashion by wearing a different style of shoe.

\* \* \*

INTEREST IN DIETS TO KEEP DOWN OR TAKE OFF WEIGHT is so great that even the federal government has gotten into the act. It has put out a 30-page booklet with a height-weight table, a discussion of how to calculate food intake on a calorie basis, suggested menus, and a list of common foods and drinks, with the calories per serving. "Food and Your Weight" put out by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Home and Garden Bulletin No. 74, is available at 15 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D.C.

\* \* \*

THE PROBLEM OF CONTROLLING CRABGRASS, the hardy perennial that rears its ugly heads in spring and summer, is currently facing the suburban dweller. According to work at the Connecticut Experimental Station, three compounds—dacthal, zytron, and calcium arsenate—applied in late April or early May as dry powders, were effective in controlling 95 percent or more of the crabgrass in heavily infested plots for the season. Although this control was achieved on small experimental plots where the chemicals had been applied with great care, the Connecticut experts warn that the homeowner is unlikely to have such good results on large lawn areas because soil, slope, and moisture may not be so uniform as in the tests. Of the three compounds, dacthal and zytron have comparatively low toxicity to human beings and pets. Calcium arsenate is highly poisonous. To control crabgrass satisfactorily in established lawns after crabgrass seedlings have emerged requires repeated applications. On newly seeded areas, no crabgrass killer was found to have any value, for in some cases, the seedlings were killed, and in other cases, the commercial preparations failed to give control at the rates used. It is just possible that the homeowner who spends time on his knees pulling crabgrass plants out by the roots really has the most effective and certainly the safest technique.



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THOSE NEW TANNING PREPARATIONS that enable anyone to look as if he had just returned from two weeks of summer sun at the seashore are not always successful. According to Dr. Leon Goldman of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, grease on the skin can interfere with the coloring effect of the essential ingredient (known as DHA) of such products. Although the chemical is generally considered safe, several cases of contact dermatitis from its use have been reported by Dr. Chenault Hailey and Dr. James W. Burks of New Orleans.

\* \* \*

POTATOES BAKED IN ALUMINUM FOIL are attractive, but the effect is for eye appeal only. According to the Research Roundup, a bulletin put out by the American Hotel Association, aluminum foil slows up the absorption of heat by reflection, and increases the time needed for cooking. The foil wrapper keeps the steam in the potato after it is cooked, and if the baked potato is held too long, will make it soggy. Baked potatoes should be held no more than 60 minutes if they are to be mealy white inside when they are served. If you want to serve them covered with foil, wrap them after baking, after first puncturing the potatoes with a fork to release the steam.

\* \* \*

MAN-MADE FIBERS are being used in comforters to replace the down puff. Since a quilted comforter is such a bulky item, it is often sent to the dry cleaner's rather than put into the family washing machine. The National Institute of Drycleaning reports that Acrilan-filled comforters required special handling to keep the batt from being flattened. In some cases, the fabric shell showed yarn slippage and seam slippage, and the design was partially removed. If there were wide spacings between the lines of stitching, the fibers shifted and bunched, causing the comforter to be lumpy. Once the filling has shifted, it is practically impossible to redistribute it. In buying an Acrilan comforter, be sure that the covering fabric is closely woven so that the fibers will not work through to the surface in use or in dry cleaning. Try to get a comforter with a wrinkle-resistant fabric if possible.

\* \* \*

#### NEW OR NEWLY TESTED:

Bip Miracle Clips (Polytop Corp., Hingham, Mass.) 30 cents for a pack of 10 loops and 8 caps. These plastic clips are designed to fasten plastic bags tightly for freezer storage. They loop over the neck of the bag and lock into place over the fold. They can be used repeatedly and are quite sturdy. They are considered a great improvement over the rubber-band method of closing a bag.

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## Consumer Bulletin

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## A new electric toaster

FOR many years, every electric toaster has employed an open coil or ribbon type of heating element. When the toaster is operating, this coil or ribbon is electrically live, at a voltage which is close to or a considerable fraction of the 120 volts of the power line. Few would be aware that there is a 50 percent chance that such an element is alive electrically when the toaster is plugged into an outlet, *even when toast is not being made and the toasting element is cold*. Thus there has always been a grave potential danger that any user might receive a bad or even fatal shock if he were to poke his finger or a metal object, such as a fork, into one of the toast slots and touch the wire.

The new *Supre-Macy* is claimed by Macy's to be "the safest toaster ever made," and free from all danger of shock, and in one important respect it is safer electrically than most of the toasters previously available, because it employs a sealed tubular heating element. Thus no uninsulated hot wire is readily accessible to a prying finger or fork. (This difference is a really important one, from the standpoint of safety.)

Unfortunately, most tubular heating elements present some degree of shock hazard, though one of a very different order from that described at the beginning of this article; tubular heating elements normally do exhibit a small electrical leakage or stray current due to unavoidable limitations in their insulation.

Leakage or stray currents are present to *some* degree in any electrical appliance that operates from the power lines. With care in design, the current leakage may be expected to be very small, usually negligible, and incapable of causing injury to a human being. However, in some instances, and particularly where sealed tubular heating elements are involved, the amount of leakage current available may present a serious shock hazard, in some instances sufficient to cause death or grave injury.

In appliances such as electric ranges, dishwashers, and dryers that employ sheathed or sealed elements, the excessive leakage current is not generally a problem because the frames of these appliances are normally "grounded" electrically, and the stray currents that might present a shock hazard are carried away harmlessly through the grounding wire.

The famous department store, Macy's in New York City, is now offering under its *Supre-Macy* brand, a toaster for which they make claims of superior safety from hazard of shock. The new design does eliminate one of the major electrical hazards present in electric toasters; nevertheless, the new appliance has its faults in spite of Macy's claim that it has "everything else," along with electrical safety, and it presents some problems that are of interest to every home that uses an electric toaster.

In the usual toasters, of which many millions are now in use, the open elements are wound on a punched mica sheet, and electrical leakage is low, because mica is a very good insulator and its electrical properties are not altered much by moisture picked up from the air. In the *Supre-Macy*, leakage current was considerable (though not dangerous), and no provision was made to ground the shell of the toaster. (Grounding, though appropriate for toasters of the new design, is not desirable on the older types of toaster, the kind that have an exposed heating coil or ribbon arrayed on a punched mica sheet.) Because of the lack of provision for permanent grounding, one might, particularly after a period of humid weather, receive a shock if he touched the outer case of the Macy toaster with one hand and at the same time touched a kitchen faucet, radiator, or other grounded object, such as metal counter molding, with the other hand.

The *Supre-Macy* was far from being "the safest toaster ever made," in another important respect, for after a relatively short period of continuous use, the case became very hot. The area adjacent to the toast push-down lever, for example, rose to a temperature well above 200 degrees, a temperature sufficient to cause a bad burn to the fingers if the shell should be brushed accidentally in the handling of the control.

### C. Not Recommended

**Supre-Macy, Model 605** (Macy's, Herald Square, New York City) \$13.88. Two samples tested failed mechanically after toasting two single slices at the dark setting. Leakage current, a measure of the potential shock hazard, 1.2 milliamperes, judged excessive for an appliance of this kind. This toaster was apparently made for Macy's by Son Chief Electrics, Winsted, Conn. Son Chief have recently announced in an electrical trade journal availability of their *Model 605 MM*, which appears to be identical to the *Supre-Macy*.

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